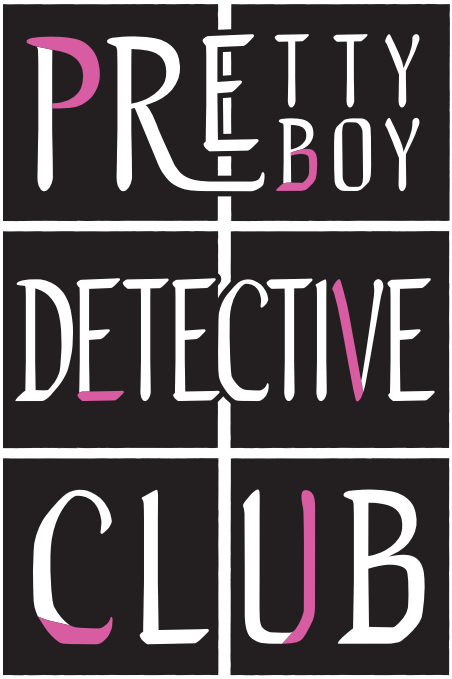
Original Story:
NISIOISIN
Manga:
Suzuka Oda
Original Character Design:
Kinako
2
PRETTY BOY
DETECTIVE
CLUB



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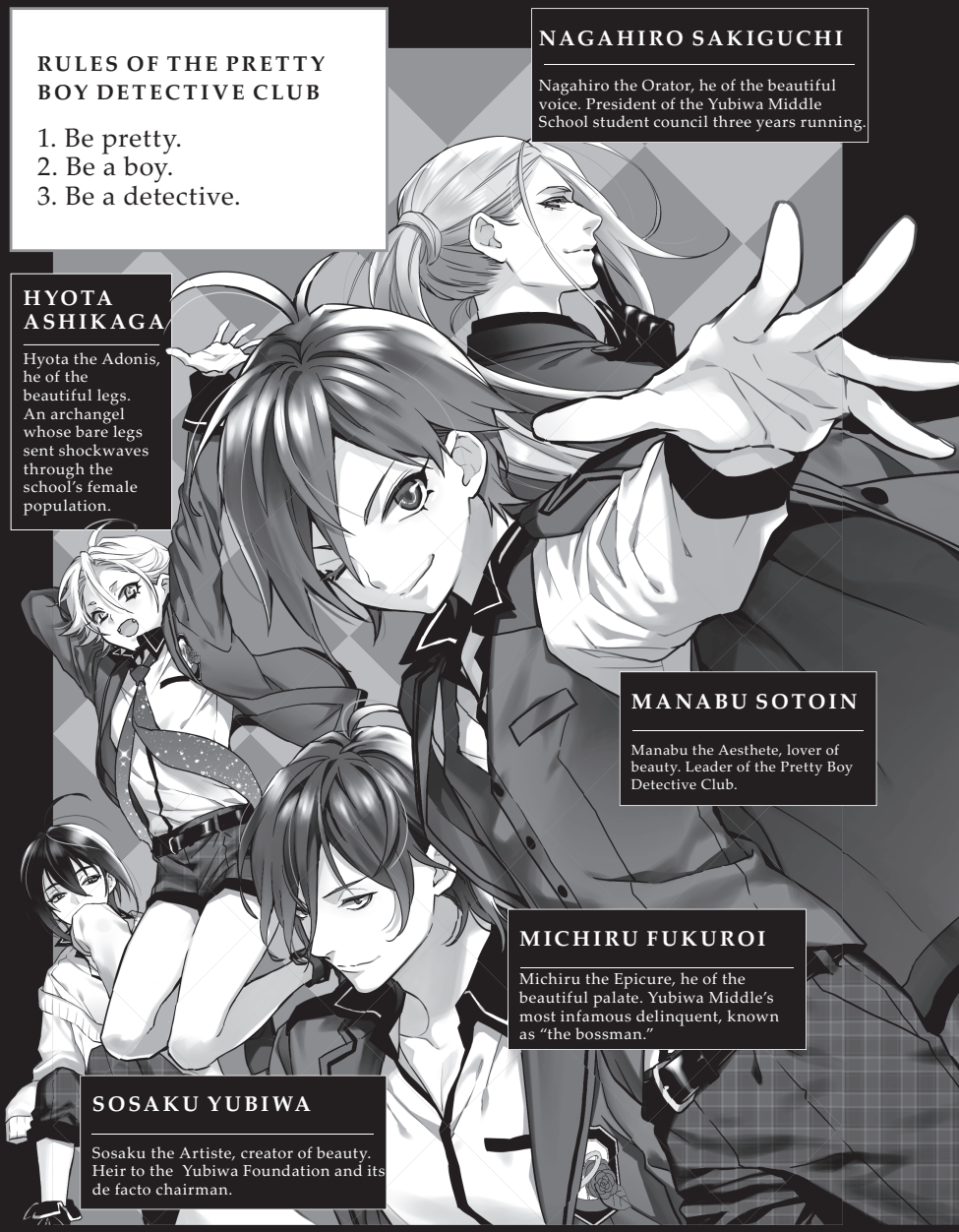
With "The Case of the Dark Star" (working title) wrapped up in spectacular fashion,
I, Mayumi Dojima, abandoned my dream of becoming an astronaut
and decided to join the Pretty Boy Detective Club.
OUR ADVENTURE BEGINS HERE!
THE END

As if!
Forget that trite ending for some discontinued manga. You can rest easy...
because the tale of the Pretty Boy Detective Club—now with six members—really is just beginning!

FILE ★ The Swindler, the Vanishing Man, and the Pretty Boys 1

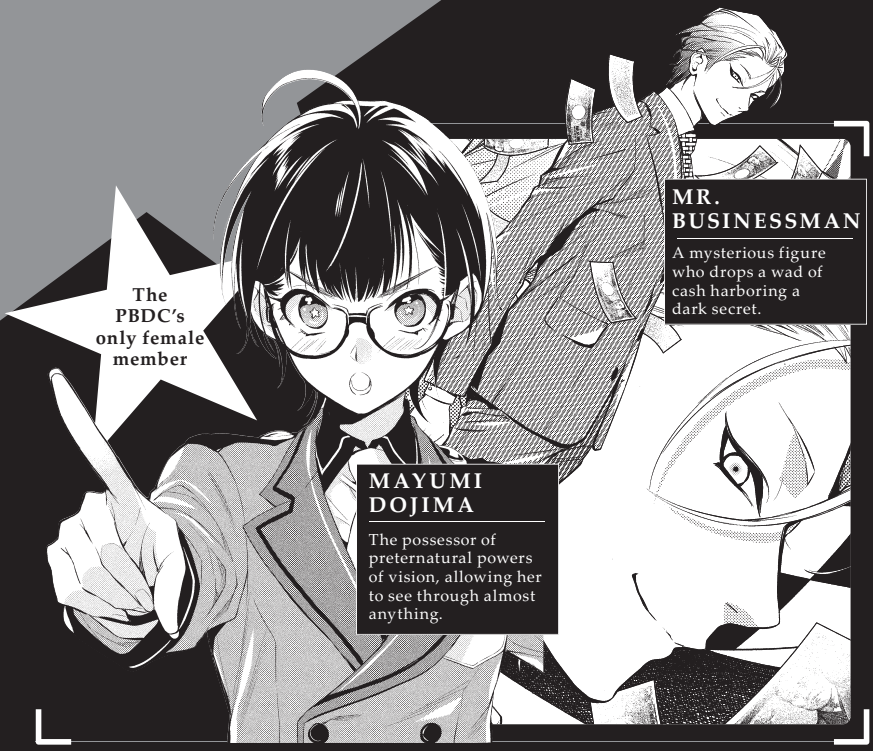
H A R A C T E R S



MEMBERS OF THE **PRETTY BOY DETECTIVE CLUB**

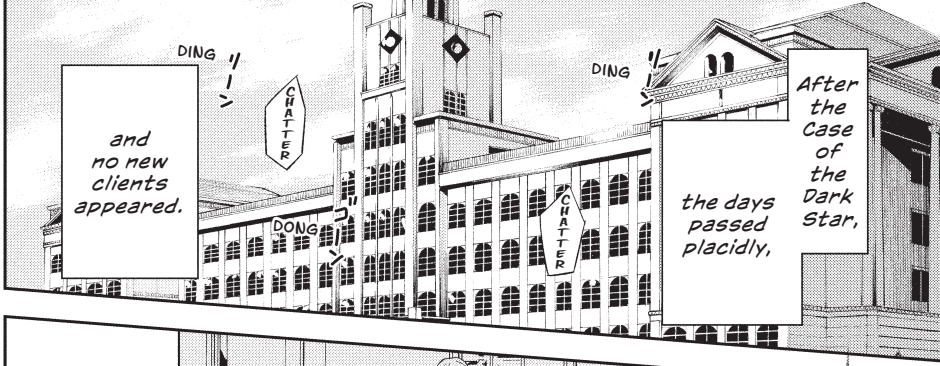
S T O R Y & C

PRETTY BOY DETECTIVE CLUB

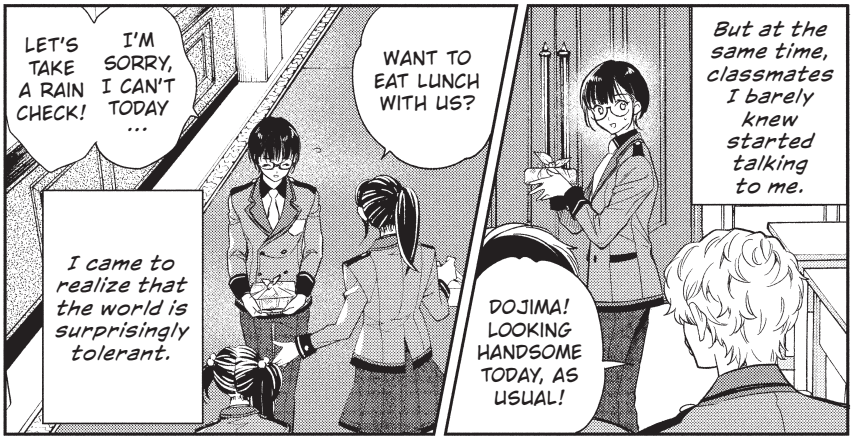


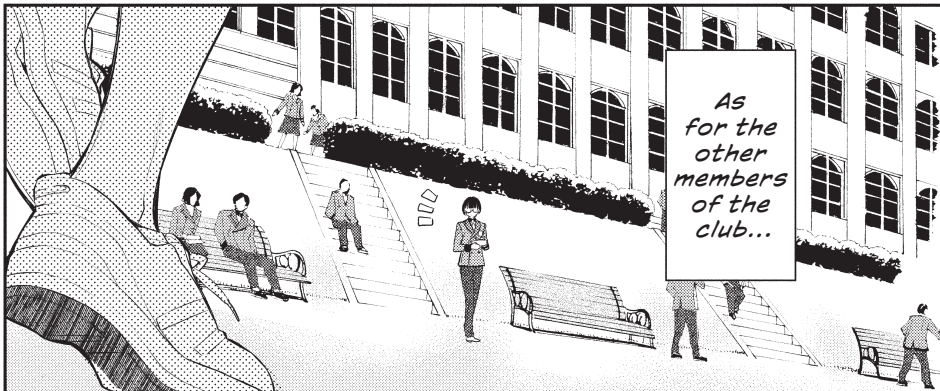
THE STORY SO FAR

The mysterious **Pretty Boy Detective Club** is rumored to resolve problems at Yubiwa Academy in an unofficial, undercover, uncommercial capacity. Mayumi Dojima, a second-year student at the school, commissions the club to help her find a star she saw just once, ten years ago. Their investigation reveals that her "star" was actually the flash of a military satellite being shot down by a nuclear missile in a top-secret operation! Mayumi is kidnapped by a professional delivery service called the Twenties, but Nagahiro the Orator uses his brains and chameleon-like voice to fool the leader of the Twenties and resolve the matter without incident. Mayumi joins the Pretty Boy Detective Club as Mayumi the Seer—and her first test as a member of the club is waiting just around the corner!


After the Case of the Dark Star,
the days passed placidly,
DING
CHATTER
DONG
CHATTER
DING
and no new clients appeared.

A few things did change, though.
Now that I'd suddenly started dressing like a boy,
the rift between me and my parents grew even wider.


But at the same time, classmates I barely knew started talking to me.
DOJIMA! LOOKING HANDSOME TODAY, AS USUAL!
WANT TO EAT LUNCH WITH US?
I'M SORRY, I CAN'T TODAY ...
LET'S TAKE A RAIN CHECK!
I came to realize that the world is surprisingly tolerant.


As for the other members of the club...

Hyota Ashikaga, the ace of the track team,

an angel among men,

who more than lives up to his legend,

is generously exposing his beautiful legs again today.

Playing the delinquent lone wolf, as usual.
There's Michiru Fukuroi, the bossman.
He's got a domestic side, but...
wow
What a cute bento!
DON'T MESS WITH MY PLEASANT LUNCH BREAK!
Those look like the Kamikazari Middle guys we ran into before...
Most students at Yubiwa Middle won't get anywhere near him.
GRAB
YOU WANT A PIECE OF ME, ASSHOLE?
MURMUR
MURMUR
hey
watch it
MOVE IT!
I'm gone...
YOU MICHIRU FUKUROI?

TAP
COME NOW, FUKUROI, STOP THIS AT ONCE.
With one exception.
Nagahiro Sakiguchi, the councilman.
HUH?
IT SEEMS ONE OF OUR STUDENTS HAS ACTED RUDELY.
YOU'RE FROM KAMIKAZARI MIDDLE SCHOOL, I SEE.
WHO THE HELL DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?
The bossman and the councilman!
Outside of our HQ, they get along like a cat and dog.
HOW CHILDISH.

Then there's the chairman.
HEY!
WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?!
One word from him is enough to make students and teachers alike fall into line.
Sosaku Yubiwa.
HA HA HA
I imagine his antics drive his teachers up the wall.
Um...I'm not sure what to say about the other member... our president, Manabu Sotoin.
COMMENTS
Manabu's eccentric behavior is disruptive. He needs to try harder to fit in with the other children.
His report card probably looks like this:
After all, he's still in fifth grade!

Mostly life is normal.

but that's nothing special at Yubiwa Academy.

we run into trouble at times,

It's true,

TTY BOY DETECTIVE CLU

until this morning!

Or it was...

BAM

WHAT'S THIS?

A NEW CASE!

OHOH HOHO

HEH HEH HEH ...

HAVE I EVER GOT SOMETHING TO BRIGHTEN YOUR BORING DAY:

IS THIS OUR FEE?

SNATCH

YOU'RE SMARTER THAN I THOUGHT.

NO!

OF COURSE NOT!

and don't steal it

THEN WHAT IS IT?

IT'S SOME MONEY I'VE GOT TO RETURN.

SEE...

THE THING IS...

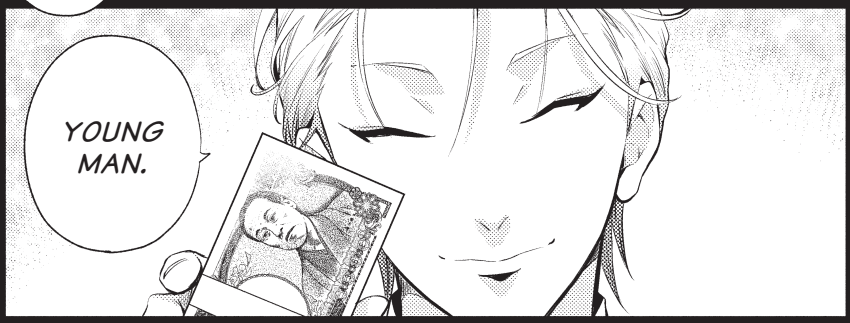
Something happened on my way to school today.
This businessman was walking toward me.
TAP
TAP
And I'm not sure why,
but something seemed off about him.

FWAP
I was about to pass right by, caught up in this pseudo-enlightened thought,
when ...
FWIP
The feeling was so faint, I'd have forgotten it after five minutes.
After all, life's made up of such fleeting encounters.
But when I took a closer look...
Uh-oh, Mr. Business-man.
You've dropped your precious date-book!
壱万円
日本銀行
10000
AB345678E

...
D...
Damn! A million yen?!!
W-W-
GRAB
ばっ
WAIT!
EXCUSE ME?!

When he turned around, I saw he was much younger than I'd thought.
His slicked-back hair made him look grown-up, yet there was something childlike in his eyes.
THRUST
YOU DROPPED THIS!
U-
UM,
HERE!
WELL, WELL. WHATEVER IS THE MATTER?

THANK YOU.
YOU'VE DONE ME A REAL FAVOR,
OH DEAR, I DID?
HOW VERY CARELESS OF ME!


YOUNG MAN.

ペコ
NOD
UH, IT'S OK...
ANYWAY, BYE NOW!

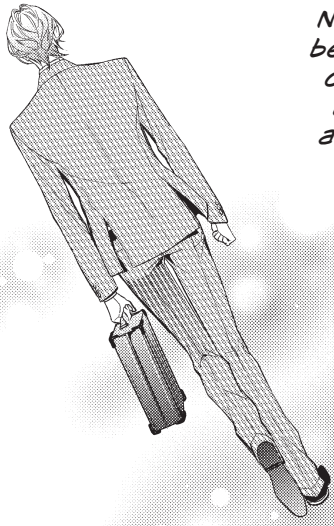
ドキッ
BA-DUMP

JUST A MOMENT.
DON'T VANISH SO BEAUTIFULLY WITHOUT ALLOWING ME TO GIVE YOU A TOKEN OF MY THANKS...
YOUNG MAN.

THE GOING RATE FOR RETURNING A LOST ITEM
IS TEN PERCENT OF ITS VALUE, I BELIEVE.
TH-
THANKS ?
SO THAT'S THE STORY.
GLO
OM
ズーーーン

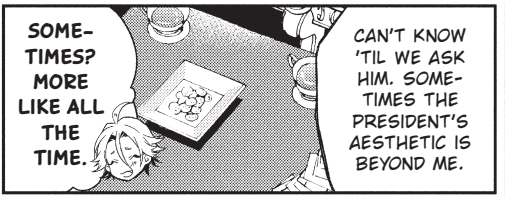
LUCKY YOU, DOJI!
WHY SO GLUM?
NOW YOU CAN BUY YOURSELF A CUTE MINISKIRT!
I'D LIKE TO SEE—
LUCKY?!
BAM
THIS KIND OF LUCK WILL SCREW UP MY LIFE!!!
happiness is off limits for me!!!
Don't say that...
THEN WHY DIDN'T YOU JUST RUN AFTER HIM AND GIVE IT BACK?
I DID RUN AFTER HIM.
But...

like a puff of air.

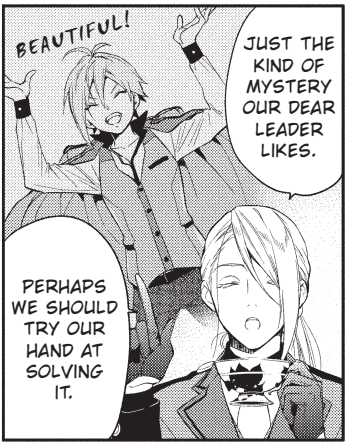


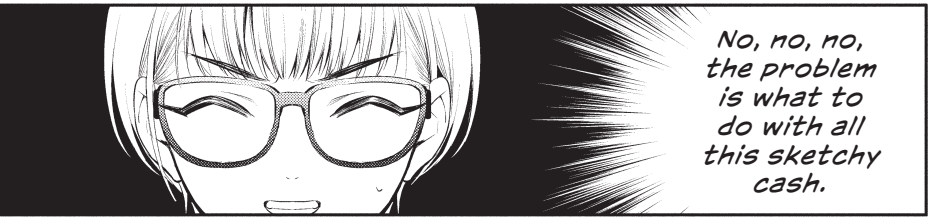
Not so much beautifully as completely, unsettling aura and all—

I MUST SAY, THAT'S QUITE THE STRANGE STORY.
A PERSON WHO VANISHES INTO THIN AIR?

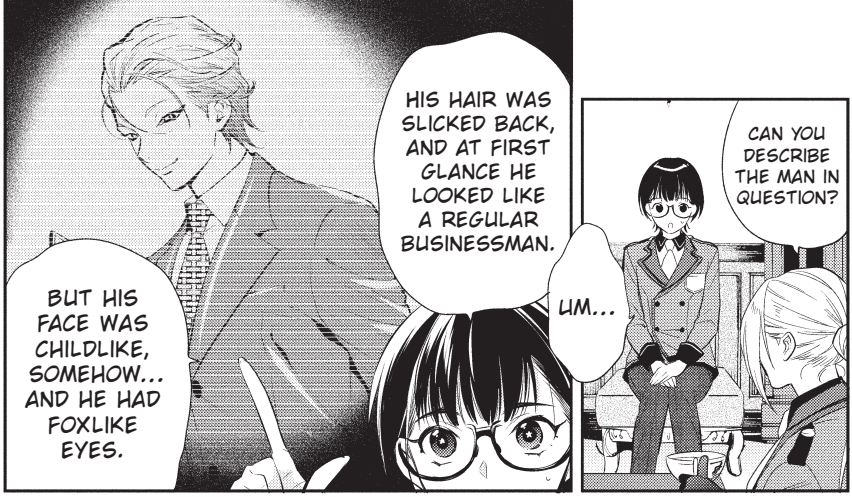

CAN'T KNOW 'TIL WE ASK HIM. SOMETIMES THE PRESIDENT'S AESTHETIC IS BEYOND ME.
SOMETIMES? MORE LIKE ALL THE TIME.

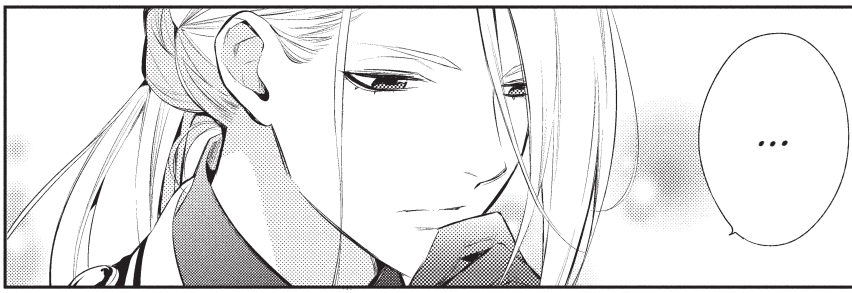
BUT IF THIS GUY REALLY DID DASH OFF AFTER TURNING THE CORNER,
I'VE GOT AN URGE TO TRY MY BEAUTIFUL LEGS AGAINST HIS.


JUST THE KIND OF MYSTERY OUR DEAR LEADER LIKES.
BEAUTIFUL!
PERHAPS WE SHOULD TRY OUR HAND AT SOLVING IT.


No, no, no, the problem is what to do with all this sketchy cash.

If they found Mr. Businessman for me, I'd be thrilled.
Oh well, as long as they've taken an interest...

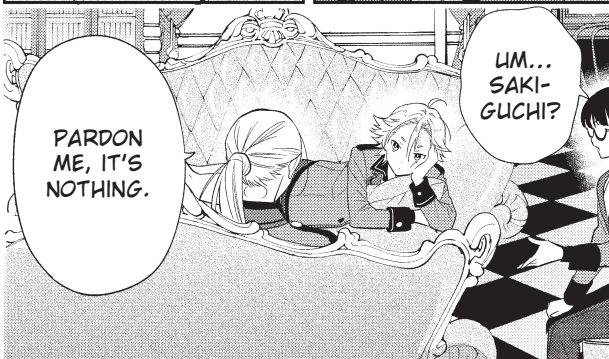

HIS HAIR WAS SLICKED BACK, AND AT FIRST GLANCE HE LOOKED LIKE A REGULAR BUSINESSMAN.
BUT HIS FACE WAS CHILDLIKE, SOMEHOW... AND HE HAD FOXLIKE EYES.
CAN YOU DESCRIBE THE MAN IN QUESTION?
UM...

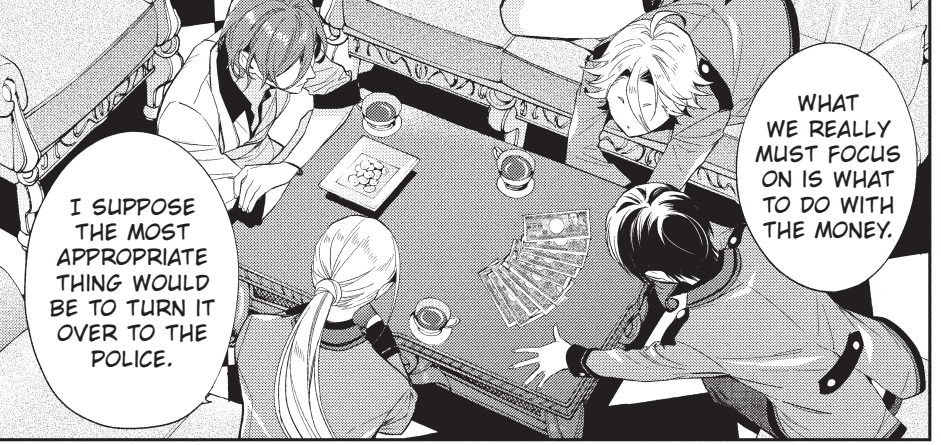

...

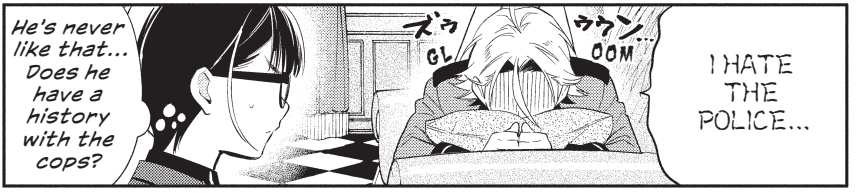
Wonder if he knows that guy...

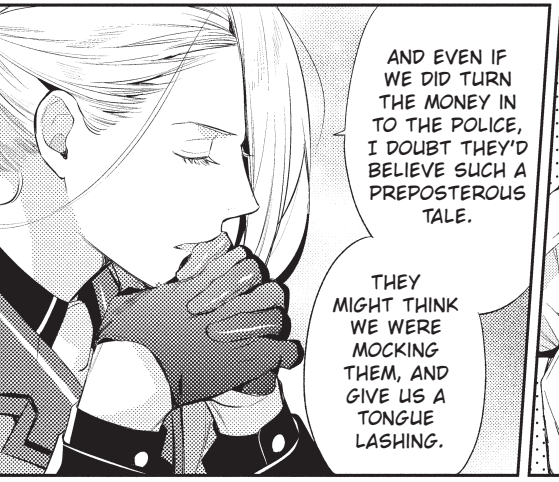
SHH
?

NAGAHIRO, WHAT'S WRONG?

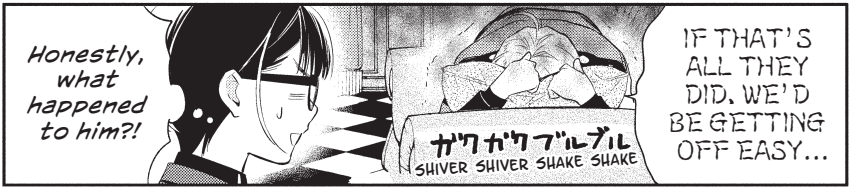

UM... SAKI-GUCHI?
PARDON ME, IT'S NOTHING.


I SUPPOSE THE MOST APPROPRIATE THING WOULD BE TO TURN IT OVER TO THE POLICE.
WHAT WE REALLY MUST FOCUS ON IS WHAT TO DO WITH THE MONEY.


He's never like that... Does he have a history with the cops?
ズゥ GL
ウウン... OOM
I HATE THE POLICE...


AND EVEN IF WE DID TURN THE MONEY IN TO THE POLICE, I DOUBT THEY'D BELIEVE SUCH A PREPOSTEROUS TALE.
THEY MIGHT THINK WE WERE MOCKING THEM, AND GIVE US A TONGUE LASHING.

WELL,
FOR A BUNCH OF GUYS WHO CALL OURSELVES DETECTIVES,
CONSTANTLY ASKING THE POLICE FOR HELP AT THE DROP OF A HAT
WON'T DO MUCH FOR OUR REPUTATION.


Honestly, what happened to him?!
ガクガクブルブル
SHIVER SHIVER SHAKE SHAKE
IF THAT'S ALL THEY DID, WE'D BE GETTING OFF EASY...

BANG
AH HA HA HA!
SO YOU'RE ALL HERE, LADS!
AND SHINING BEAUTIFULLY, I SEE, AS OUR HONORABLE RULES DEMAND!
...
Here he is.
Our fifth-grade Kogoro!
ah
YOUNG DOJIMA!
YOUR EYES ARE AS BEAUTIFUL AS EVER!
YOUR LEGS LOOK LOVELY AS ALWAYS,
HYOTA!
MICHIRU, YOUR COOKIE-MAKING TALENTS HAVE REACHED NEW HEIGHTS!
CRUNCH もぐ
CRUNCH もぐ
AND YOU, NAGAHIRO.
PLEASE TELL ME ABOUT THE CURRENT CASE IN THAT PRIDEWORTHY VOICE.
I mean your voice, which is worthy of my pride!
YES, MR. PRESIDENT.
CLINK コト...
AS IT HAPPENS...

A MAN WHO VANISHES INTO THIN AIR.
HMM!
FASCINATING!
THAT TRULY IS A MYSTERY!
...
STARE
FWIP
WHAT'S THE MATTER, SOSAKU?
YOU WANT TO SEE THIS BILL?
WHAT IS IT, MR. PRESIDENT?
AH, SO THAT'S IT, SOSAKU.

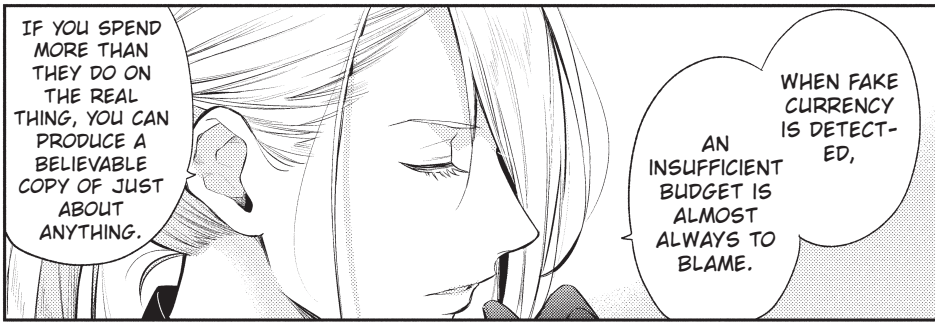
SOSAKU WAS JUST SAYING
THAT THIS BILL IS COUNTERFEIT.
COUNTERFEIT?!!
ガヤガヤ
CHATTER

I MEAN, HERE'S YUKICHI FUKU-ZAWA'S PORTRAIT,
HERE'S THE WATER-MARK...
BAM
LOOKS AUTHENTIC TO ME!
TSK TSK. THAT'S NOT IT AT ALL, YOUNG DOJIMA.
SOSAKU SAYS
THE QUALITY IS TOO HIGH.
THE QUALITY IS TOO HIGH... HMM.
YOU MEAN THAT THE COST PERFORMANCE IS POOR FOR A COUNTERFEIT BILL?
TOO HIGH?
Not like you did any-thing!
HMPH
FOR EXAMPLE, THAT THEY'VE SPENT MORE THAN 10,000 YEN
TO MAKE A 10,000-YEN BILL?

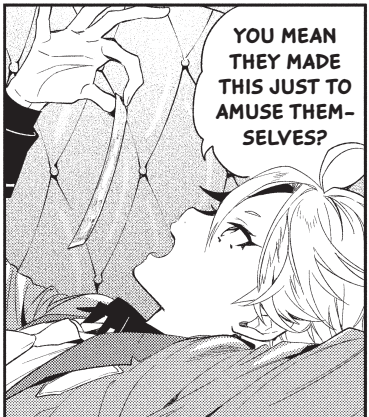
WHAT'S THE POINT OF SPENDING MORE THAN 10,000 YEN ON A 10,000-YEN BILL?
W-
WAIT A SEC.

I BESTOW MY PRAISE UPON YOU.
PRE-CISELY. WELL SAID.

HUH?!
10000
AB345678E
日本銀行券
壹万円
日本銀行
IT MEANS YOU COULD MAKE IT LOOK MORE REAL THAN THE REAL THING.
A FINE QUESTION.


IF YOU SPEND MORE THAN THEY DO ON THE REAL THING, YOU CAN PRODUCE A BELIEVABLE COPY OF JUST ABOUT ANYTHING.
WHEN FAKE CURRENCY IS DETECT-ED,
AN INSUFFICIENT BUDGET IS ALMOST ALWAYS TO BLAME.

IT'S NOT THE KIND OF THING A REAL BUSI-NESSMAN CARRIES AROUND IN HIS POCKET.
feh
BO-RING.
FAKE OR REAL,


YOU MEAN THEY MADE THIS JUST TO AMUSE THEM-SELVES?

A guy carrying around a wad of counter-feit money
sounds a hell of a lot more dangerous than a guy carrying around a million yen!
Who on earth was he?!

COUNTERFEIT MONEY THAT COSTS MORE THAN ITS FACE VALUE TO PRODUCE?

CLAP

CLAP

BEAUTIFUL!!

IS THAT NOT A TRULY BEAUTIFUL IDEA?

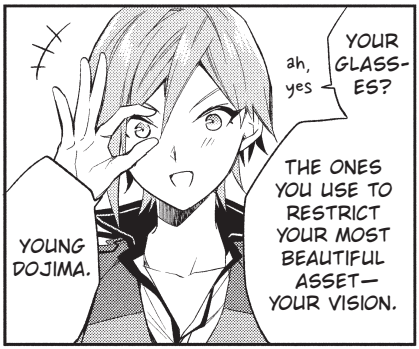
IT GLEAMS WITH AN INDESCRIBABLE LUSTER. I CAN'T CONTAIN MY CURIOSITY!

here we go

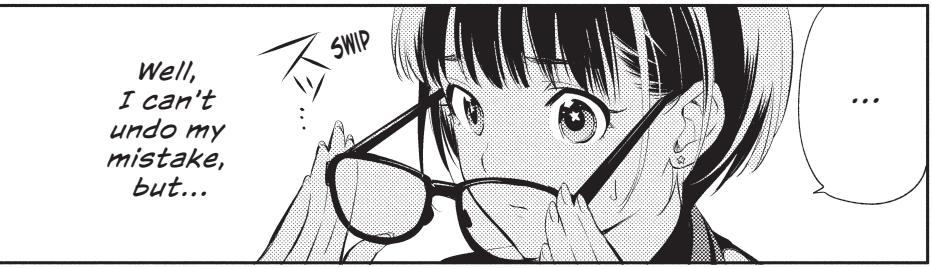
YOU IDIOT!

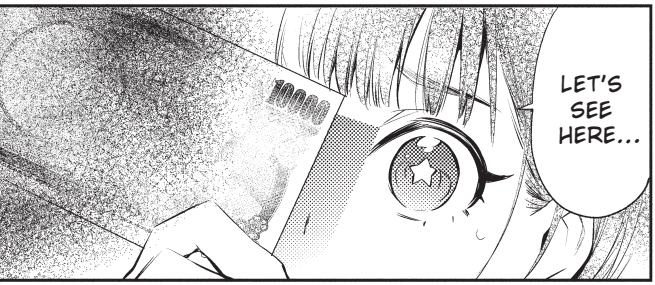
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?! COUNTERFEITING IS A CRIME!

A SERIOUS ONE, TOO!


YOUR GLASSES?
ah, yes
THE ONES YOU USE TO RESTRICT YOUR MOST BEAUTIFUL ASSET—YOUR VISION.
YOUNG DOJIMA.

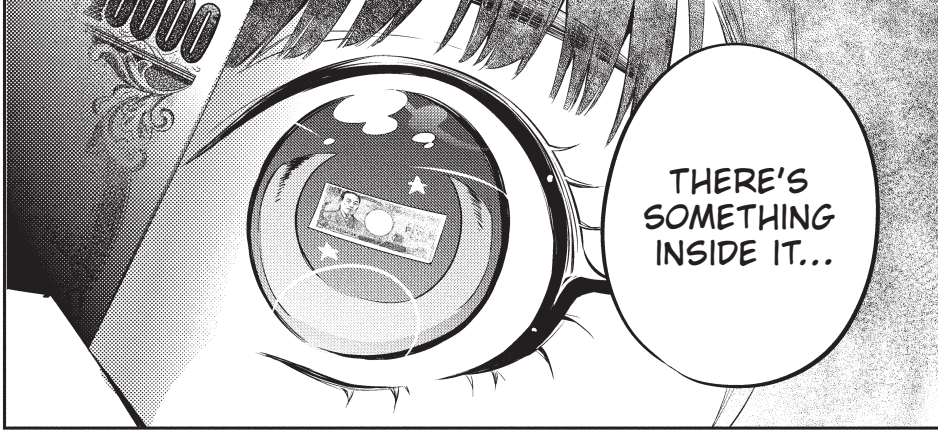
OUCH...
I WAS WEARING MY GLASSES, WHADDA YOU WANT?

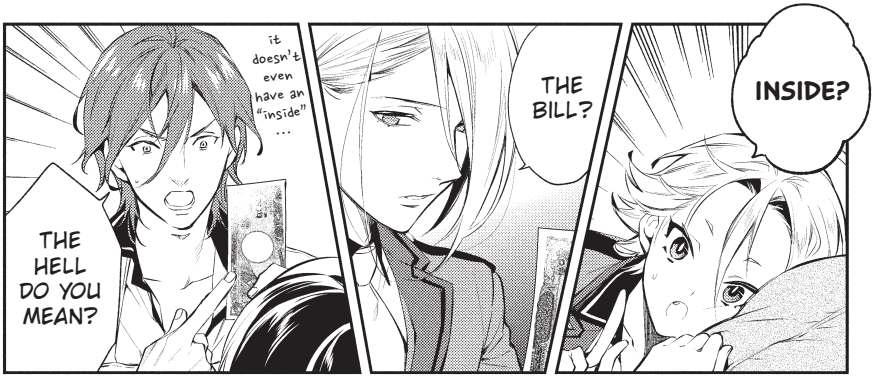

...
SWIP
Well, I can't undo my mistake, but...

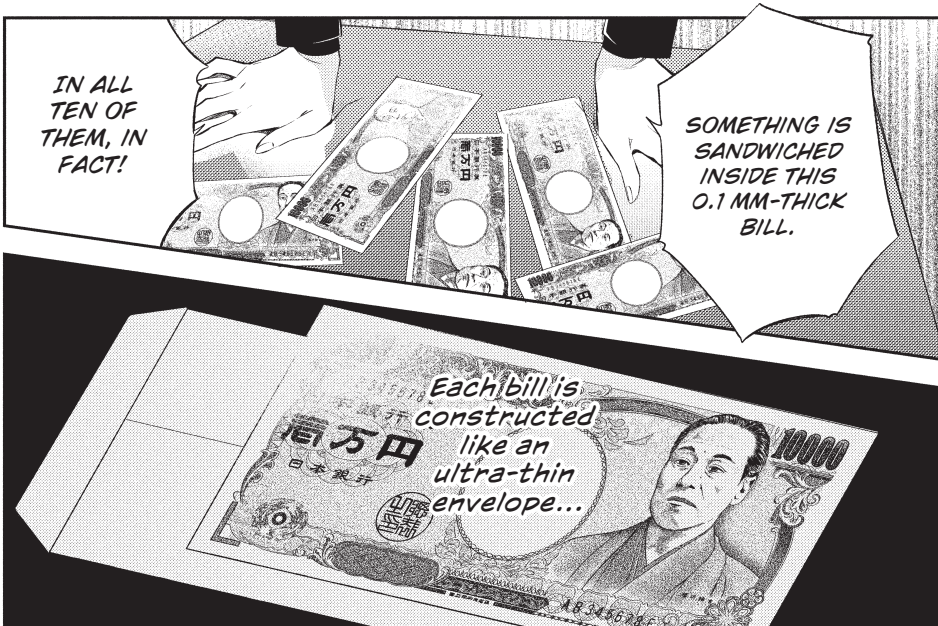

LET'S SEE HERE...

GRAB

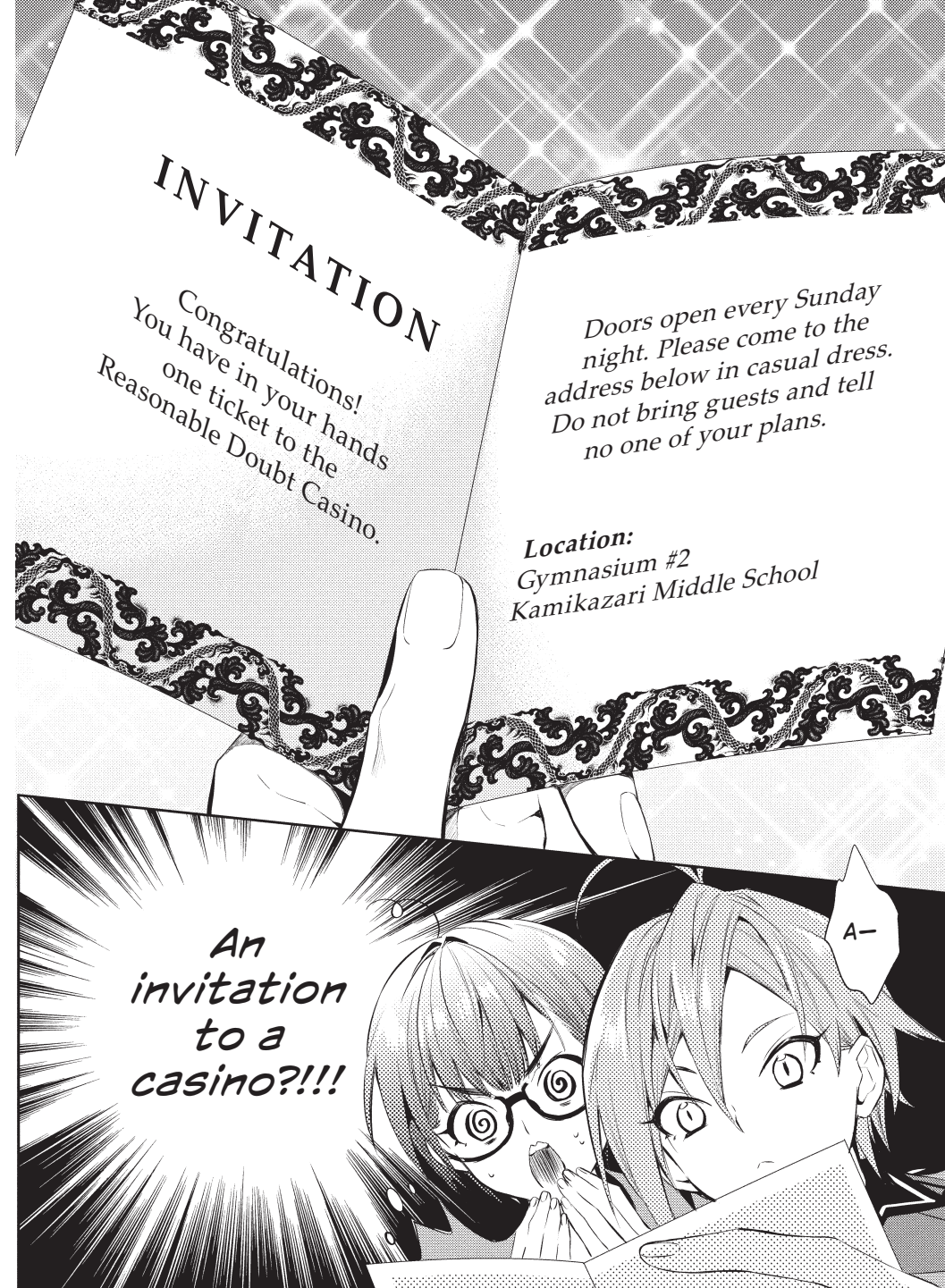
Huh?
THIS BILL...


THERE'S SOMETHING INSIDE IT...


INSIDE?
THE BILL?
It doesn't even have an "inside" ...
THE HELL DO YOU MEAN?


SOMETHING IS SANDWICHED INSIDE THIS 0.1 MM-THICK BILL.
IN ALL TEN OF THEM, IN FACT!
Each bill is constructed like an ultra-thin envelope...
壱万円
日本銀行
10000

Wait, the child genius refers to himself as "this guy"?
"LEAVE IT TO THIS GUY."
SO-SAKU SAYS,
THEN LET'S TEAR ONE OPEN—
FOR REAL?
WAIT, MICHIRU.
スッ SWP
...
ペリペリペリペリ...
PEEEEEEL
PAPER?
FWA


INVITATION
Congratulations!
You have in your hands
one ticket to the
Reasonable Doubt Casino.
Doors open every Sunday
night. Please come to the
address below in casual dress.
Do not bring guests and tell
no one of your plans.
Location:
Gymnasium #2
Kamikazari Middle School
An invitation to a casino?!!!
A—

FILE ★ The Swindler, the Vanishing Man, and the Pretty Boys 2

PRETTY BOY

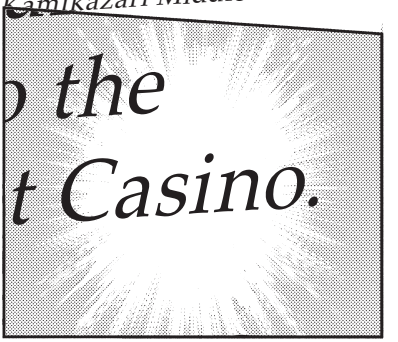
DETECTIVE CLUB!!

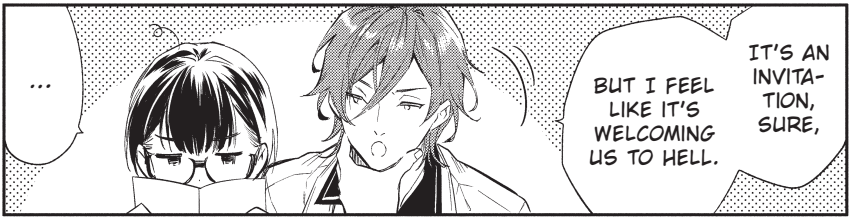
INVITATION

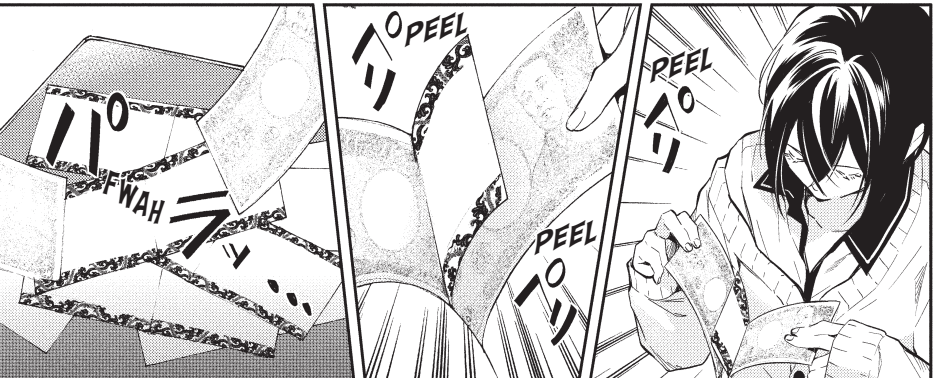
Congratulations!
You have in your hands
one ticket to the
Reasonable Doubt Casino.

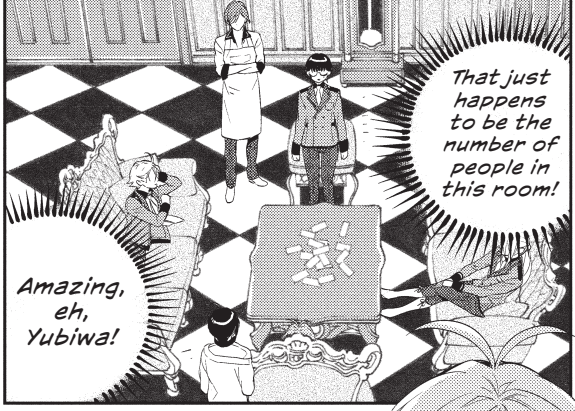
Doors open every Sunday night. Please come to the address below in casual dress. Do not bring guests and tell no one of your plans.

Location:
Gymnasium #2
Kamikazari Middle School

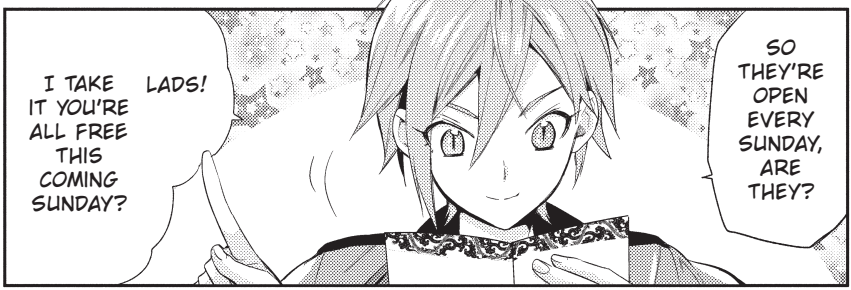


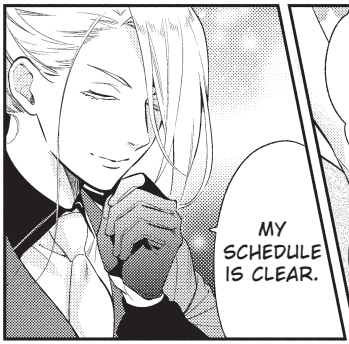





Amazing, eh, Yubiwa!
That just happens to be the number of people in this room!

SIX INVITATIONS ...
INVITATION


I TAKE IT YOU'RE ALL FREE THIS COMING SUNDAY?
LADS!
SO THEY'RE OPEN EVERY SUNDAY, ARE THEY?

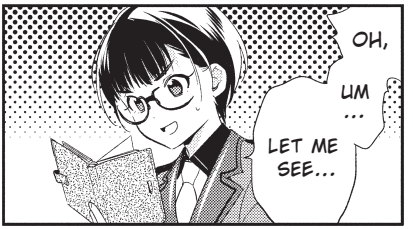

MY SCHEDULE IS CLEAR.

FREE AS A BIRD.

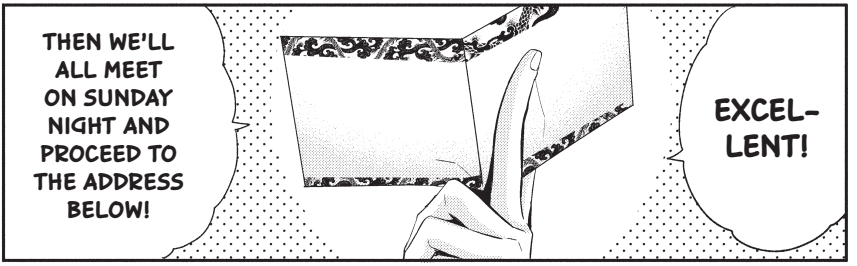
YUP.

AND WHAT ABOUT YOU, YOUNG DOJIMA? DO YOU HAVE PLANS?
HEY, WATCH IT!
WAG
WAG
MR. BARE-LEGS IS THE ACE OF THE TRACK TEAM, AND SAKIGUCHI IS STUDENT COUNCIL PRESIDENT!
HOW CAN THAT BE?! LEAVING ASIDE THE DELINQUENT,

STOP ACTING ALL BIG!!
IT'S LILY WHITE!
BWAM
HEYYY, GUDDID OUD!


OH, UM...
LET ME SEE...

HMM, IT LOOKS AS IF I CAN FREE UP SOME TIME.
...


THEN WE'LL ALL MEET ON SUNDAY NIGHT AND PROCEED TO THE ADDRESS BELOW!
EXCEL-LENT!

MUST'VE BEEN INVOLVED IN SOME PAST CASE...
KAMIKAZARI? I FEEL AS IF I'VE HEARD THAT NAME BEFORE...
HEH, I SENSE A VAGUE CONNEC-TION.

another middle school near Yubiwa Academy—

Kami-kazari Middle School:

The connection isn't vague, it's concrete as can be.

Only today, some Kamikazari kids barged onto our campus.

ANYWAY, YOU'LL BE WITH US, SO NOTHING CRAZY WILL HAPPEN.

heh heh heh

WHAT ARE YOU WORRIED ABOUT?

RIGHT NOW, YOU'RE NOT A GIRL, YOU'RE A PRETTY BOY.

You're the one who should be worried—you've been kidnapped three times!

YEAH! WE'LL BE WITH YOU, SO NO NEED TO WORRY!

ACTUALLY, I'VE HEARD ABOUT THIS.

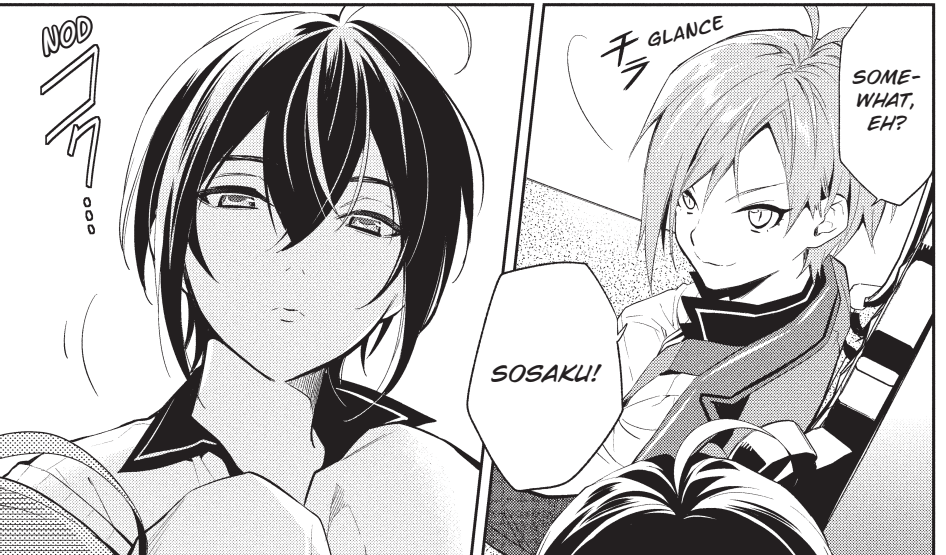
RUMOR HAS IT THERE'S GAMBLING THERE AT NIGHT AND IT'S EXTREMELY DANGEROUS,

SO GIRLS SHOULD NEVER GO NEAR THE PLACE...

THOUGH HALF OF THEM HAVE BEEN RIPPED TO PIECES.
ANYHOW, THESE BILLS MAY BE COUNTERFEIT, BUT WE REALLY MUST GO
SO YOU CAN RETURN THEM TO YOUR "MR. BUSINESS-MAN."

IT SAYS TO COME IN "CASUAL DRESS"...
very Sunday
lease come to the
ess below in casual dress.
ot bring guest
one of you
nd tell

IT MEANS SOMEWHAT FORMAL ATTIRE.
THE ONLY REGULAR CLOTHES I OWN ARE SHORTS.
REGULAR CLOTHES?
WHAT DOES THAT MEAN AGAIN?


NOD
フム!...
チラ GLANCE
SOME-WHAT, EH?
SOSAKU!

SUNDAY
BA
DA
BAM

しゃん
SHIMMER
WOW...
THEY'RE REALLY LIVING UP TO THEIR NAME.
OHO, YOUNG DOJIMA!
きゅん
SQUEAL

YOU'RE DONE UP EVEN MORE THAN USUAL!
BEAUTI-FUL!
This is so much better than I can do on my own...
i'm falling for myself...
♪

WELL LADS, SHALL WE?
THE PRETTY BOY DETECTIVE CLUB IS ON THE CASE!
AS ALWAYS, LET US BE BEAUTIFUL!
LET US BE BOYS! AND LET US BE DETECTIVES!

IT'S...
SURPRISINGLY NEAT AND NORMAL...
I've heard the inside of Kamikazari Middle resembles a drawing of hell...
ずん STRIDE ずん STRIDE
YOU'RE BEING AWFULLY BOLD ABOUT IT.
STILL, FOR A BUNCH OF GUYS SNEAKING INTO ANOTHER SCHOOL,
I CAN ALWAYS SAY I'M LOOKING INTO REPORTS OF UNREST IN THE AREA.
HAVE NO FEAR, I'M STILL STUDENT COUNCIL PRESIDENT.
YOU ASK ME, THIS FEELS LIKE A WARM WELCOME.
SNEAKING IN? THE GATES ARE WIDE OPEN.
THERE'S NOT A CAR IN THE LOT, SO THE TEACHERS MUST'VE ALL GONE HOME.

But, a soft-shoe routine? The child genius dances??

Having fun? He looks the same as always.

AH, YOU SEEM TO BE HAVING FUN, TOO, SOSAKU!

...

MAYBE WE'LL GET TO ENJOY ONE OF YOUR SOFT-SHOE ROUTINES TONIGHT!

THIS MUST BE GYMNASIUM #2.

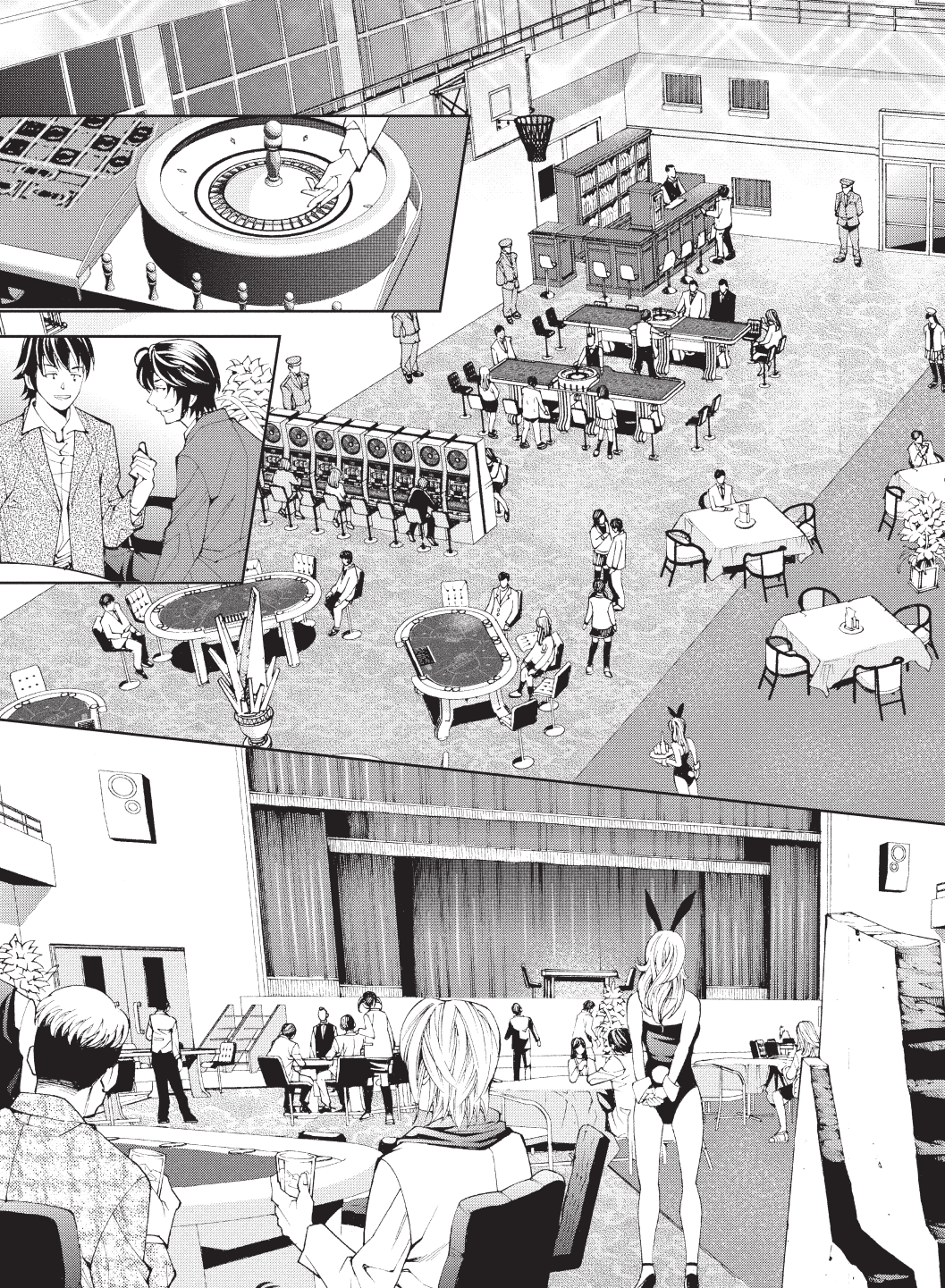
CREAK

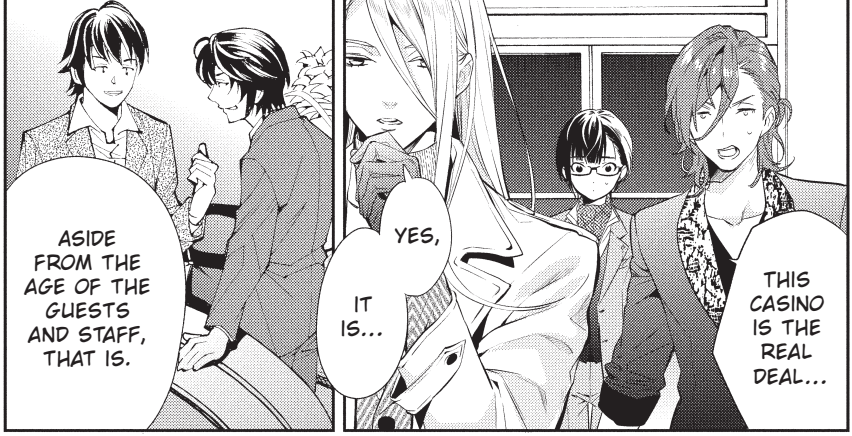
THEY'VE GOT CURTAINS UP SO WE CAN'T SEE INSIDE.

GUESS OUR ONLY CHOICE IS TO HEAD ON IN.

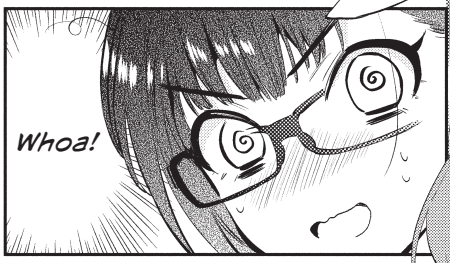
CAN'T WAIT

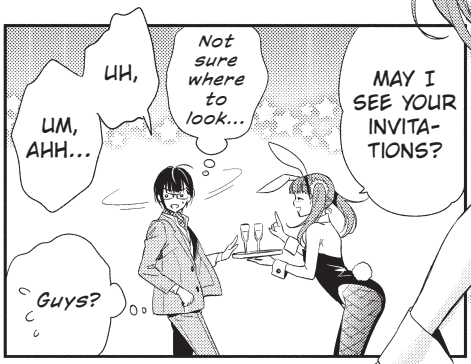
WH...
WHAT IS THIS PLACE?




ASIDE FROM THE AGE OF THE GUESTS AND STAFF, THAT IS.
YES, IT IS...
THIS CASINO IS THE REAL DEAL...

WELCOME TO THE REASONABLE DOUBT!
HUH?
WELCOME!

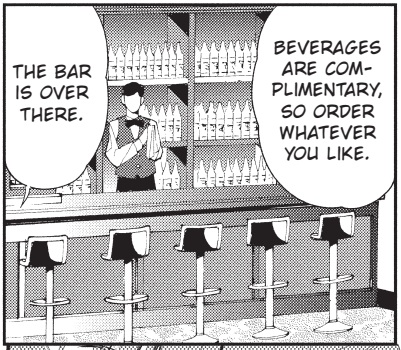

Whoa!

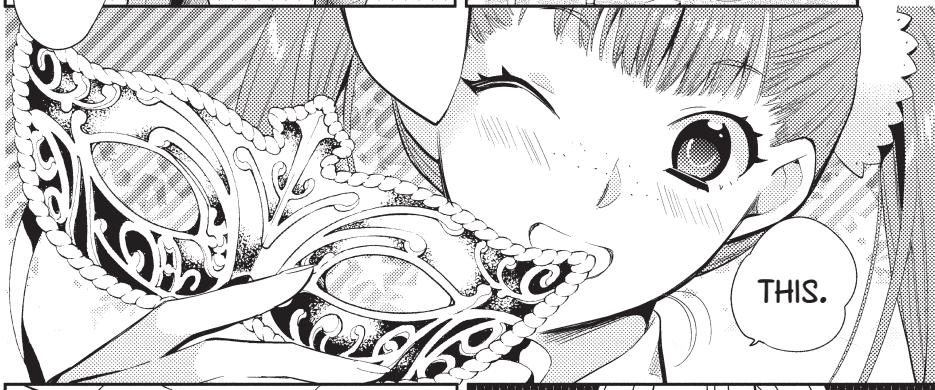

UH,
UM, AHH...
Not sure where to look...
MAY I SEE YOUR INVITA-TIONS?
Guys?

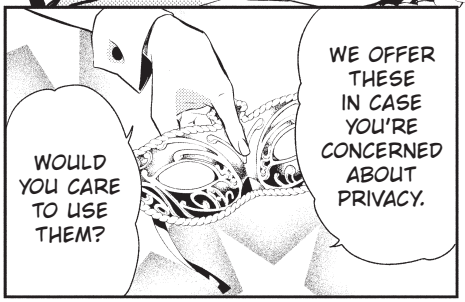
SMILE
SMILE

They care more about the games than they do about a bunny girl?! What are they, children?!
No, boys ...
SIX IT IS.
THANK YOU SO MUCH.
FOR THE SIX OF US.
HERE THEY ARE.
THE CHIP PURCHASE BOOTH IS OVER THIS WAY.
AND THE CASHIER'S BOOTH IS ON THE LEFT.
Cashier's booth?
So they're using real money...
This is no childish game!

SWOOP
IF YOU HAVE ANY FURTHER QUESTIONS, PLEASE DON'T HESITATE TO ASK.
OH, AND ONE MORE THING—


BEVERAGES ARE COMPLIMENTARY, SO ORDER WHATEVER YOU LIKE.
THE BAR IS OVER THERE.


THIS.

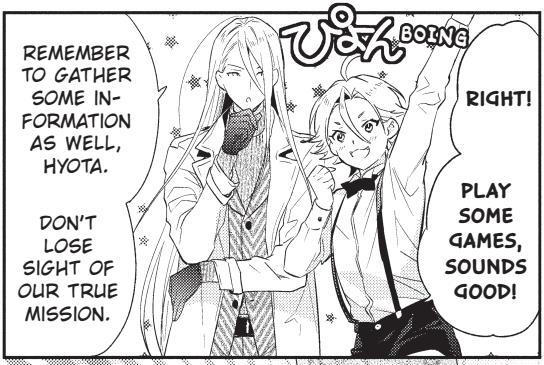

WE OFFER THESE IN CASE YOU'RE CONCERNED ABOUT PRIVACY.
WOULD YOU CARE TO USE THEM?

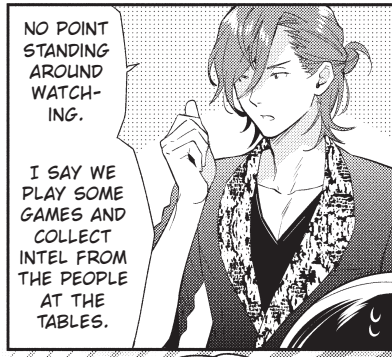
WH-
WHAT'S THIS FOR?
RRGH

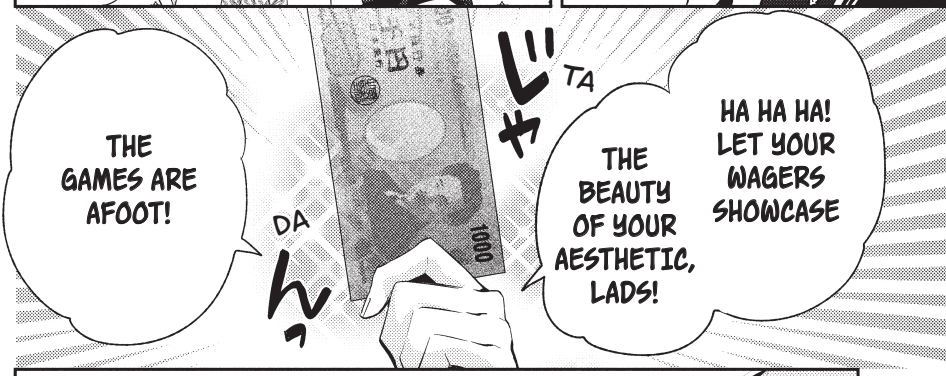
I'M NOT SURE...
WHAT DO YOU THINK, GUYS?

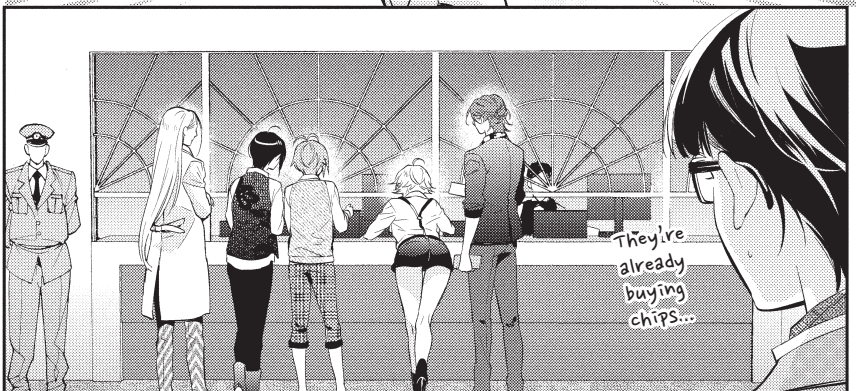
HUH? M-MASKS ?
TO HIDE OUR FACES?
WH-WHATEVER FOR?
"What possible purpose could there be in such a foolish act?"
For once, he looks shaken ...
Bet that's what he's thinking.
WELL, IF THAT'S OUR LEADER'S DECISION.
WE HAVE NOTHING TO HIDE.
VERY WELL.
THEN THE REASONABLE DOUBT CASINO AWAITS.
ENJOY!

I'm a gloomy girl whose only version of nightlife has been stargazing.
PEER
キョろ
PEER
キョろ
...Enjoy! Ha!


REMEMBER TO GATHER SOME INFORMATION AS WELL, HYOTA.
DON'T LOSE SIGHT OF OUR TRUE MISSION.
ぴょん BOING
RIGHT!
PLAY SOME GAMES, SOUNDS GOOD!


NO POINT STANDING AROUND WATCHING.
I SAY WE PLAY SOME GAMES AND COLLECT INTEL FROM THE PEOPLE AT THE TABLES.


THE GAMES ARE AFOOT!
DA
ん
じゃ
TA
THE BEAUTY OF YOUR AESTHETIC, LADS!
HA HA HA! LET YOUR WAGERS SHOWCASE
1000


They're already buying chips...

THE MINIMUM BET IS THE SAME AS IN LAS VEGAS...
THE RATES ARE AS AUTHENTIC AS THE SETTING...
hip rate
Chips start at 100 yen...
AND THE DEALERS ARE AS SKILLED AS PROS.
THAT'S ENOUGH TO SWEEP AWAY ANY LINGERING SENSE
THAT I'M IN A MIDDLE SCHOOL GYM...
GUESS I WILL TOO...
WELL, ALL FIVE OF THEM BOUGHT CHIPS.
NO, YOUNG DOJIMA.

TONIGHT, YOU'LL BE OBSERVING.

HUH?

OBSERVING?!

POINT

ビシッ!

I VERY MUCH WANT YOU TO ENJOY YOURSELF.

BUT I'M AFRAID WHATEVER GAME YOU PLAY, YOUR EYESIGHT WILL VIOLATE THE RULES...

MAYUMI THE SEER!

YOU CAN SEE THROUGH THE SPIN OF THE SLOT MACHINES AND ROULETTE WHEELS,

AND EVEN THE BACKS OF CARDS.

SO BETTING AT A CASINO PRESENTS A PROBLEM.

OH...

He accidentally makes sense every once in a while.

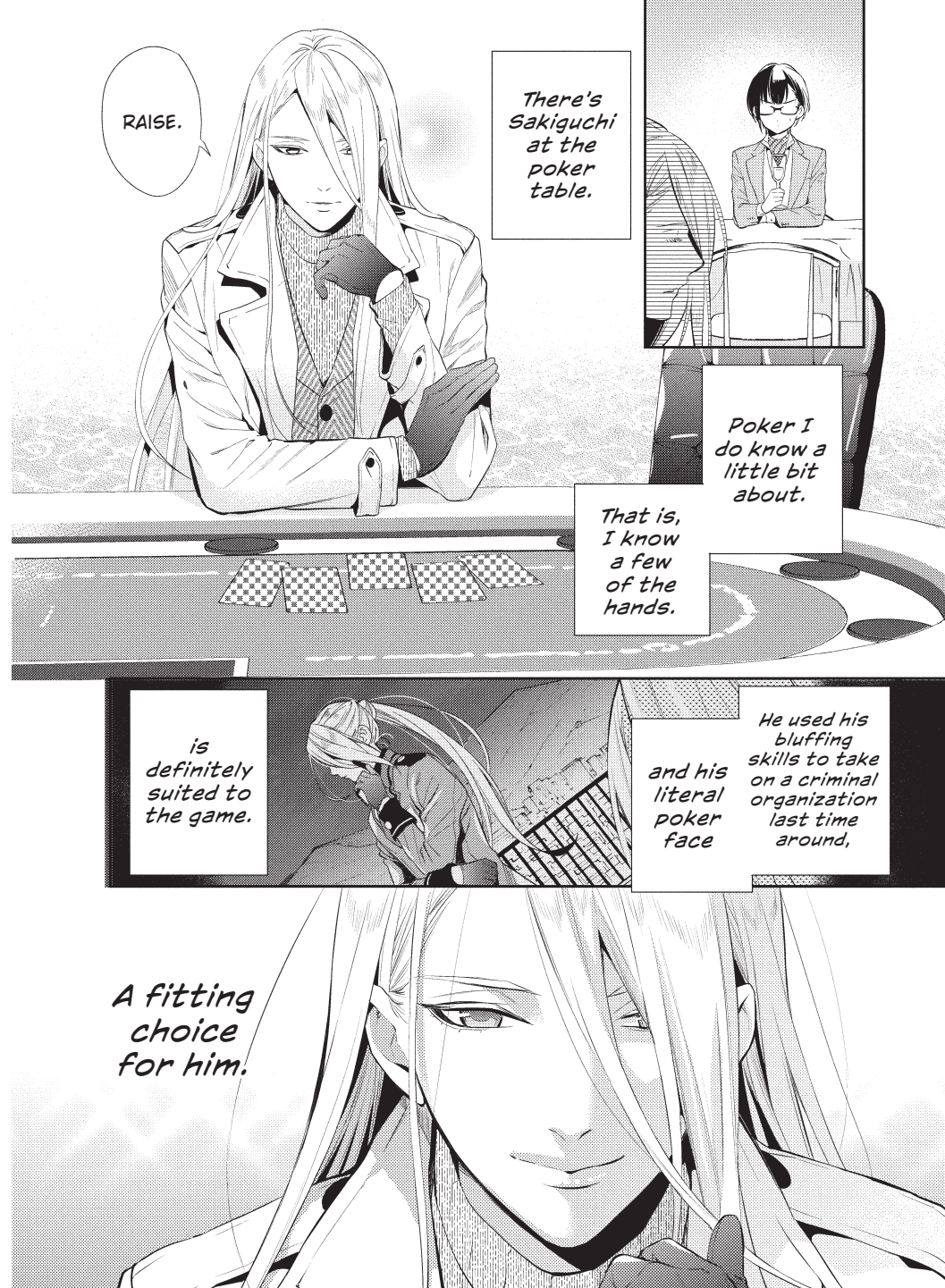
Damn fifth-grader...

WELL THEN.

AS GUARDIAN OF THE PRETTY BOY DETECTIVE CLUB, I WILL DEVOTE MYSELF TO WATCHING OVER YOU.

They've each got their own skill—how will they join in the fun?

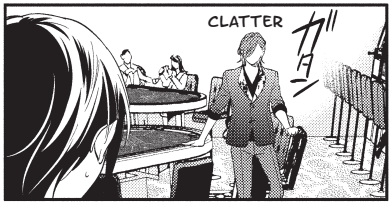
GLANCE
HM.
now, I wonder which games they'll choose...
Ah!
There's Sotoin.
SHFF
Black-jack of all things! Guess he likes the tough stuff.
Does he even know the rules?
not that I do...
SMIRK


RAISE.
There's Sakiguchi at the poker table.
Poker I do know a little bit about.
That is, I know a few of the hands.
He used his bluffing skills to take on a criminal organization last time around,
and his literal poker face
is definitely suited to the game.
A fitting choice for him.

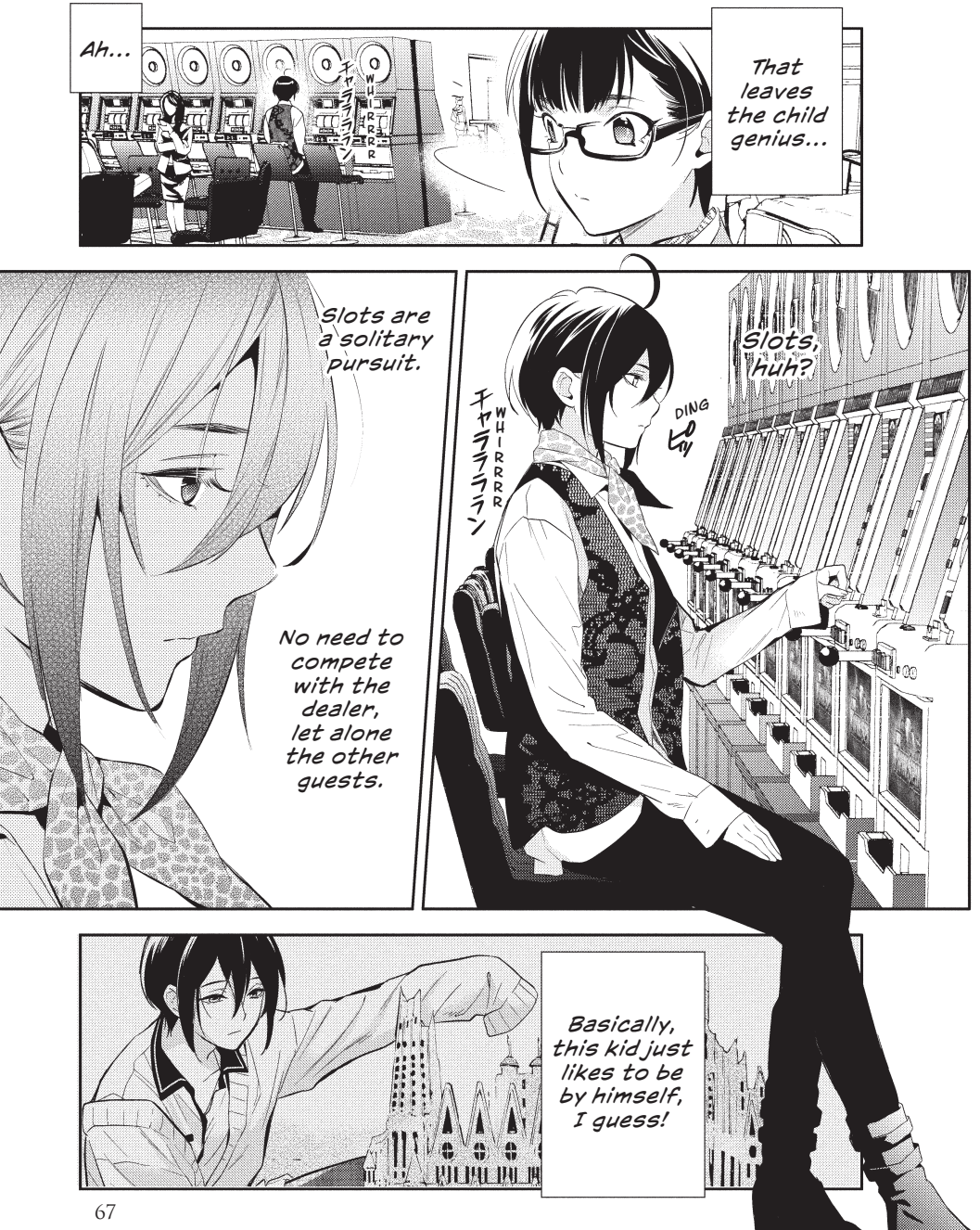
Mr. Bare-Legs?
Aha, at the roulette wheel. That might be the simplest casino game to understand.
But... it looks like he's just betting against the crowd.
He's not trying to win, he's just amusing himself by sowing chaos...
That angelic face of his hides a devilish personality...

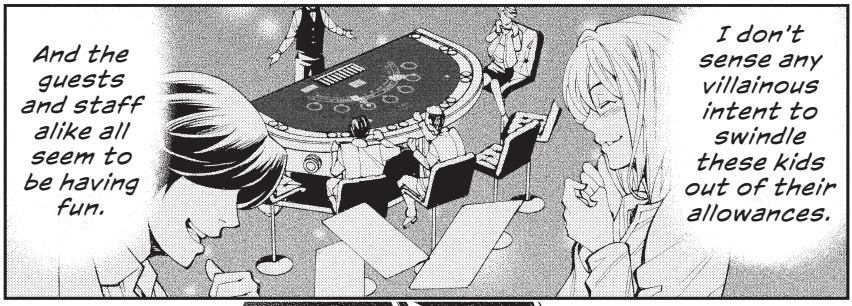
??
Bacca-rat?
And the delin-quent ...
Um, how does that work, again?
...

UH-OH
He's an easy mark!
He hasn't even been playing for ten minutes!

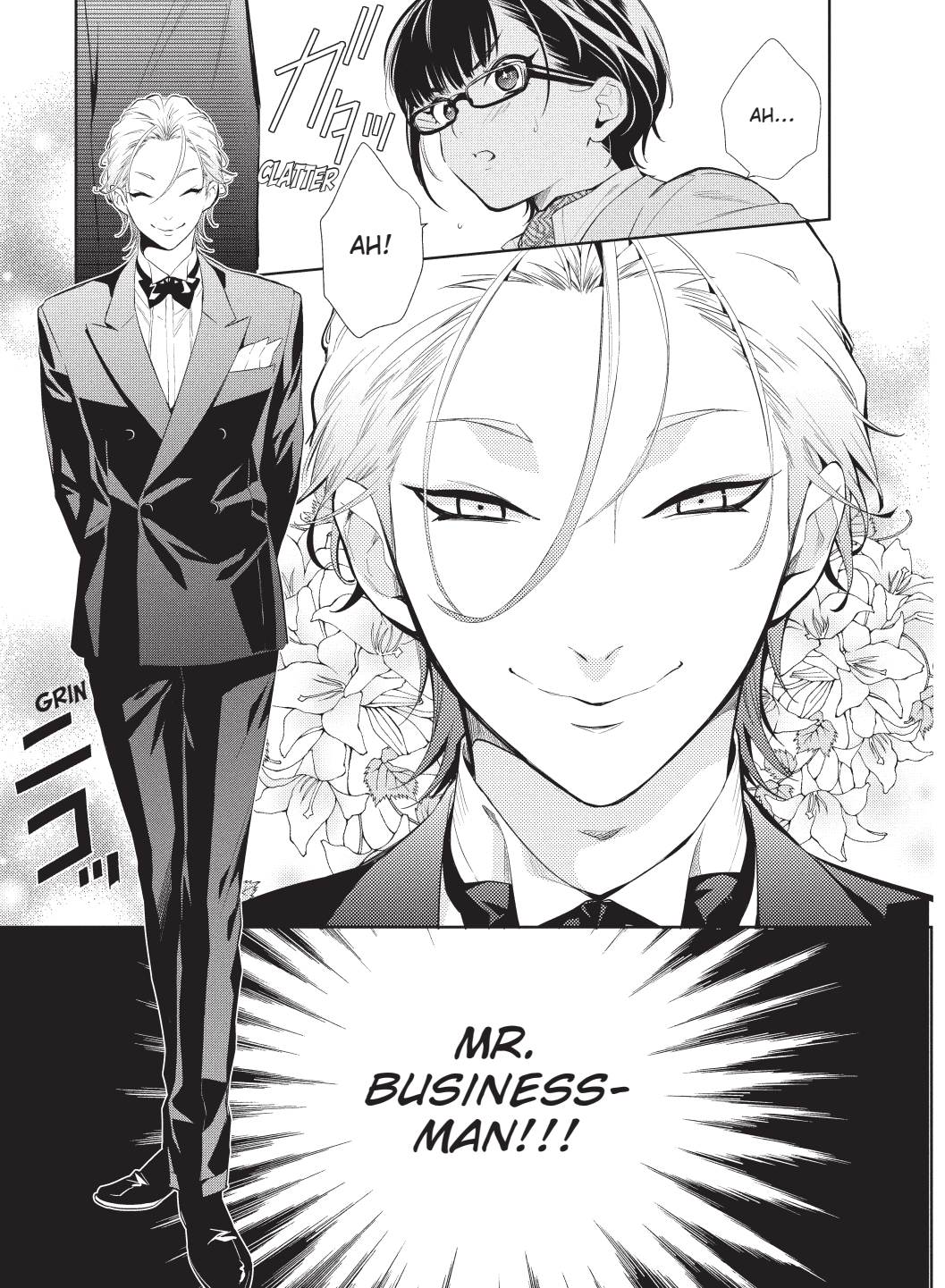

CLATTER
ガチャン

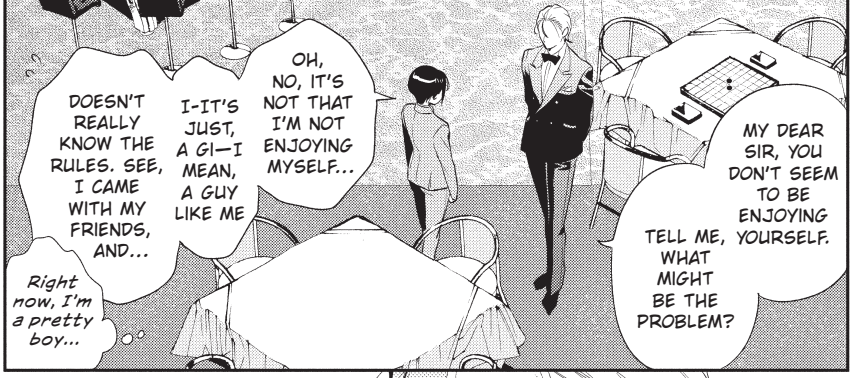
GIMME ANOTHER GRAND'S WORTH.

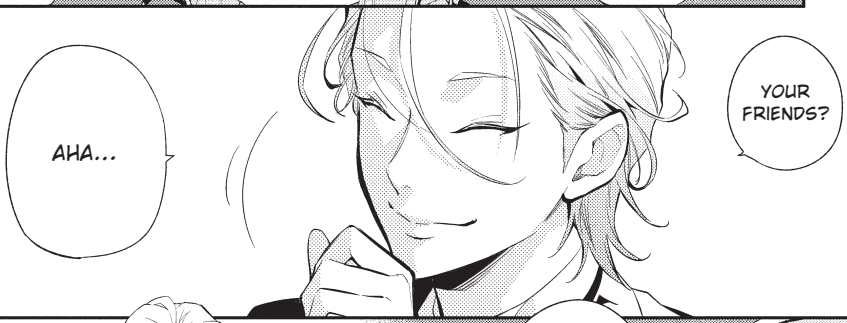

Ah...
WHIRRRR
チャララララン
That leaves the child genius...
Slots are a solitary pursuit.
No need to compete with the dealer, let alone the other guests.
Slots, huh?
DING
ピッ
WHIRRRR
チャララララン
Basically, this kid just likes to be by himself, I guess!



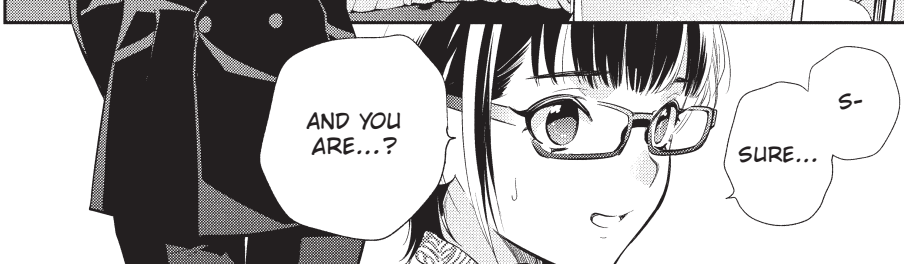
As far as I can tell, everything here is aboveboard.
• • • •


ガタッ
CLATTER
AH...
AH!
GRIN
ニコ...
MR. BUSINESS-MAN!!!


MY DEAR SIR, YOU DON'T SEEM TO BE ENJOYING YOURSELF. TELL ME, WHAT MIGHT BE THE PROBLEM?
OH, NO, IT'S NOT THAT I'M NOT ENJOYING MYSELF...
I-IT'S JUST, A GI—I MEAN, A GUY LIKE ME
DOESN'T REALLY KNOW THE RULES. SEE, I CAME WITH MY FRIENDS, AND...
Right now, I'm a pretty boy...


YOUR FRIENDS?
AHA...

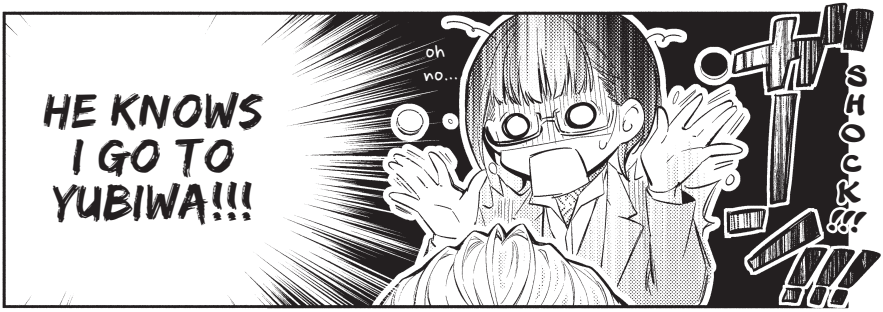
IN THAT CASE, WHAT WOULD YOU SAY
TO JOINING ME IN A NOSTALGIC GAME OF OTHELLO?


S-
SURE...
AND YOU ARE...?

have a seat
I'M THE MANAGER AND OVER-SEER OF THIS CASINO.
HOW RUDE OF ME.
thank you
MY NAME IS FUDA-TSUKI.
I'M ALSO THE PRESIDENT OF THE KAMIKAZARI STUDENT COUNCIL.
He's student council president?
Huh?
HEH HEH HEH
I WEAR MAKEUP TO MAKE ME LOOK MORE GROWN-UP.
カタッ
CLATTER
A PERSON CAN TURN INTO ANY-ONE, YOU KNOW.
SHOCK!!
SO HE'S NOT A BUSINESS-MAN AFTER ALL!
HE'S IN MIDDLE SCHOOL!!

UNLIKE AT YUBIWA ACADEMY.

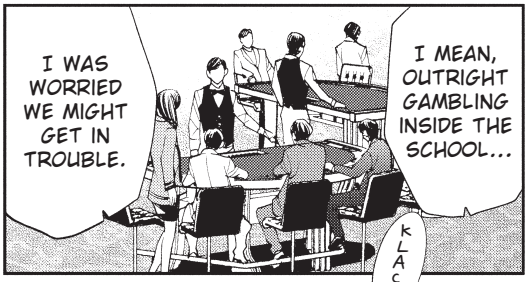
SO... YOU MUST BE A THIRD-YEAR?
CLICK カチ
no
I'M IN YEAR 2.
THE OLD MAKE WAY FOR THE YOUNG EARLY AT OUR SCHOOL.

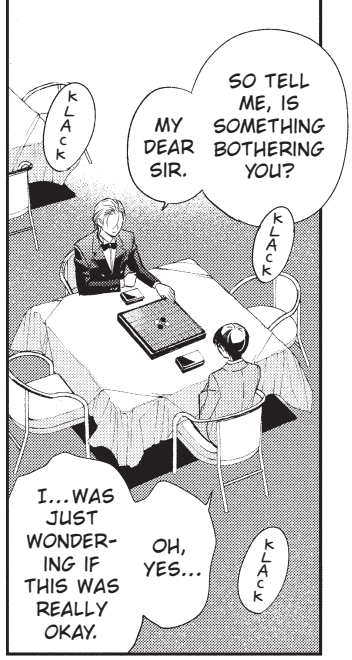

HE KNOWS I GO TO YUBIWA!!!
oh no...
SHOCK!!!

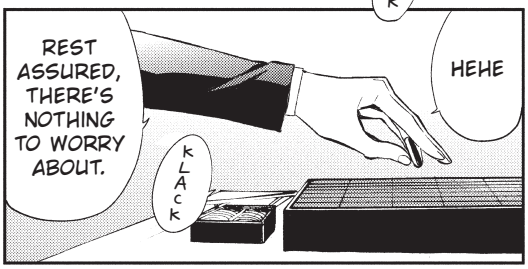
Which means he must have approached me now because he recognized me.
Guess it makes sense—I was wearing my uniform last time we met.

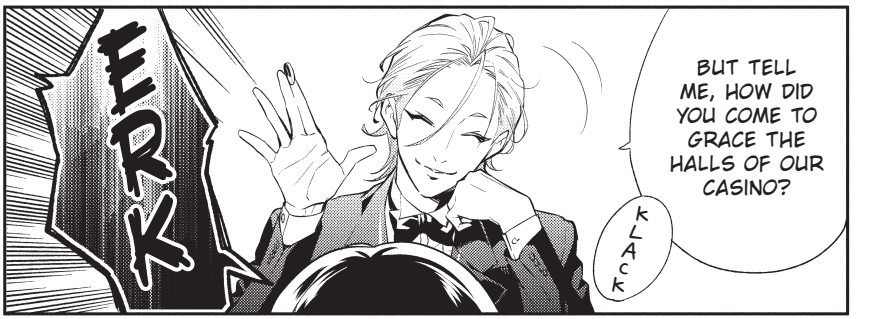
What in the world is he after...?
As a member of the Pretty Boy Detective Club, I'd better proceed with care.
GULP ゴクッ...

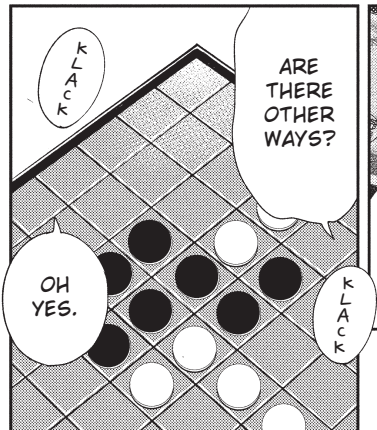
BLACK OR WHITE?
GRIN
WHICHEVER YOU PREFER.
IS THERE EVEN AN ADVANTAGE TO GOING FIRST IN OTHELLO?
HMM
I have a vague sense that going second is better...
THAT'S BECAUSE IF YOU CHOOSE TO GO SECOND, YOU CAN PLACE YOUR PIECE AT A DIAGONAL,
WHEREAS IF YOU GO FIRST, IT'S ALL THE SAME.
KLACK
I'd rather not have to make a choice.
OKAY,
GLINT!
I'LL GO FIRST!

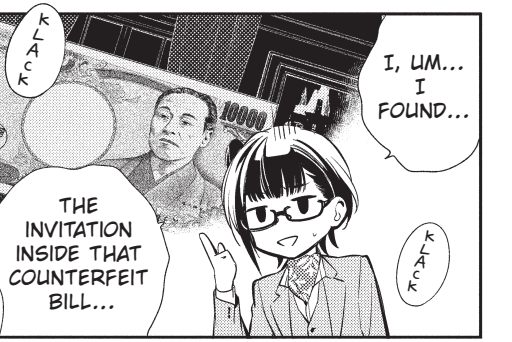

I WAS WORRIED WE MIGHT GET IN TROUBLE.
I MEAN, OUTRIGHT GAMBLING INSIDE THE SCHOOL...
KLACK


KLACK
MY DEAR SIR.
SO TELL ME, IS SOMETHING BOTHERING YOU?
KLACK
I...WAS JUST WONDERING IF THIS WAS REALLY OKAY.
OH, YES...
KLACK


REST ASSURED, THERE'S NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT.
KLACK
HEHE


ERK
BUT TELL ME, HOW DID YOU COME TO GRACE THE HALLS OF OUR CASINO?
KLACK


KLACK
ARE THERE OTHER WAYS?
OH YES.
KLACK


KLACK
I, UM... I FOUND...
THE INVITATION INSIDE THAT COUNTERFEIT BILL...
KLACK

...
KLACK
WE STOP AT NOTHING TO ENTERTAIN OUR GUESTS.
KLACK
VITATION
ngratulations!
ave in your hands
e ticket to the
able Doubt Casino.
Doors o
night. P
address bel
Do not brin
no one o
Location:
Gymnasium #2
Kamikazari Middle Scho
WE'VE COME UP WITH MANY INGENIOUS METHODS OF SENDING OUT INVITATIONS.
KLACK
WOULD NEVER REPORT THIS CASINO TO THE POLICE.
ANYONE WITH THE PLAYFUL SPIRIT TO DISCOVER THAT SORT OF INVITATION
KLACK
In other words, everyone here is complicit in the crime.

AND DO YOU TURN A PROFIT?
KLACK
THE INVITATIONS CLEARLY TOOK PLENTY OF TIME AND EFFORT TO MAKE,
Except the scion of a certain foundation.
AND I CAN HARDLY IMAGINE THERE ARE ANY MILLIONAIRES AMONG THESE KIDS.
KLACK
OH MY, YOU ARE KIND TO BE CONCERNED FOR OUR WELFARE.
KLACK
WE DO INDEED TURN A PROFIT. THIS IS NOT MY ONLY VENTURE, YOU SEE.
KLACK
THIS IS ALL FUN AND GAMES.
KLAKT
OR YOU COULD CALL IT A FORM OF INVESTMENT.
Invest-ment?
KLACK
JOB CREATION IS ESSENTIAL, YOU SEE.
KLACK
thanks...
SO IS EVERYONE WHO WORKS HERE A STUDENT AT KAMIKAZARI MIDDLE?
KLACK
YES, FOR THE MOST PART.
OUR SCHOOL HAS MANY STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES.
KLACK
ANYHOW, IT'S NEVER TOO EARLY TO LEARN A TRADE, IS IT?
KLACK

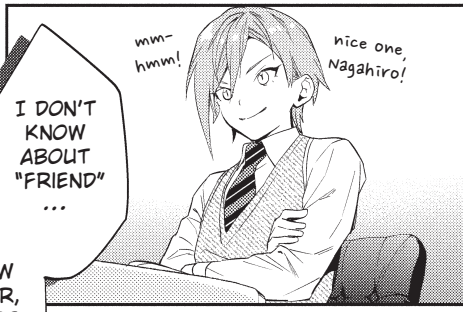
SMIRK
KLAKT
SO IN THE END, I SHOULD THINK OF THIS CASINO
KLACK
KLACK
AS A LITTLE GAME OF YOURS, INVITATIONS AND ALL?
YOU WIN.
33 BLACK TO 31 WHITE.
WE HAVE A PROBLEM !!
For now, I've achieved my goal.
MAESTRO !!
ガタン
ジャキーン
well then
I'll BE—
I better round up the boys.
FLINCH

どーーーんっ
BAM

HEH HEH HEH

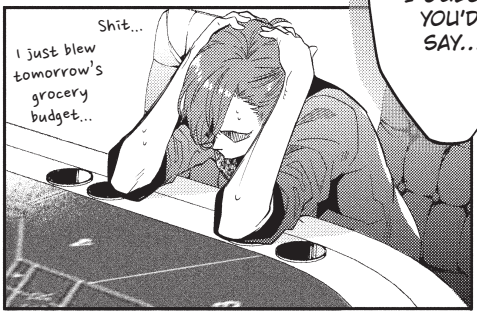
MURMUR
ヒソヒソ
ヒソヒソ
MURMUR

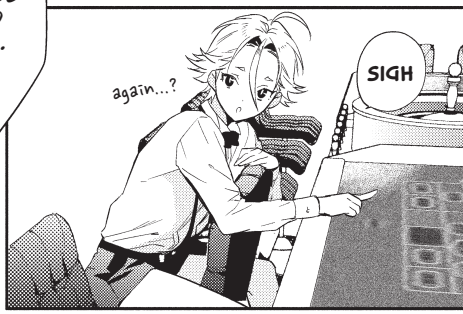
Uh-oh...
This is definitely a problem.
Not subtle, Sakiguchi.
If he leaves the table now, the casino will take a huge loss.
THE YUBIWA ACADEMY STUDENT COUNCIL PRESIDENT.
IS HE A FRIEND OF YOURS?



I DON'T KNOW ABOUT "FRIEND" ...

FELLOW MEMBER, I GUESS YOU'D SAY...





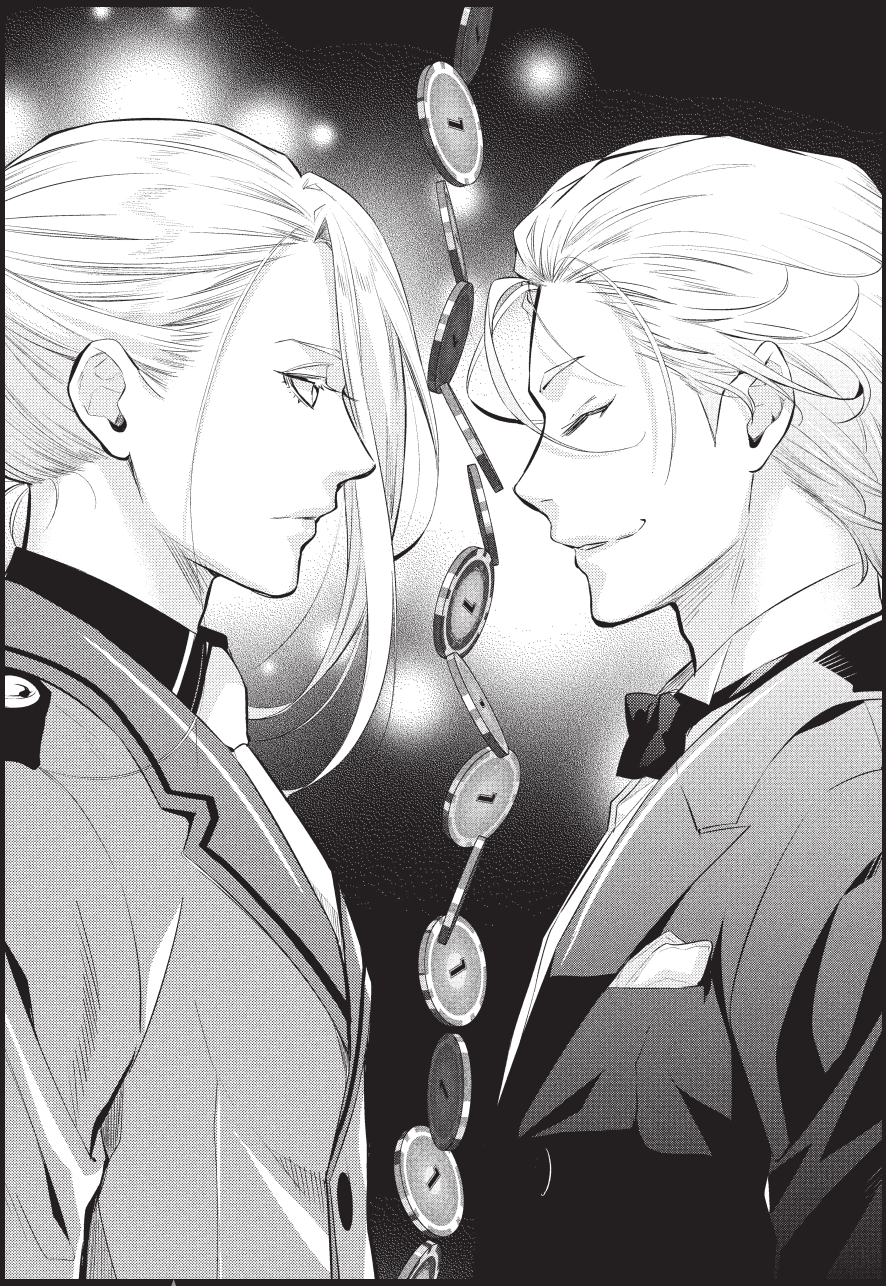
TAP
TAP
I WOULDN'T DREAM OF IT.
ON THE CONTRARY—
I'D LIKE TO OFFER THE LUCKY FELLOW
OUR SPECIAL SERVICE.
Special service?!

Ladies and gentlemen!
Welcome to the special program!
Any guest who wins more than a set amount
earns the right to a "showdown" with the maestro, here on stage!

...!!
WOOOO
Let the games begin!!

PRETTY BOY

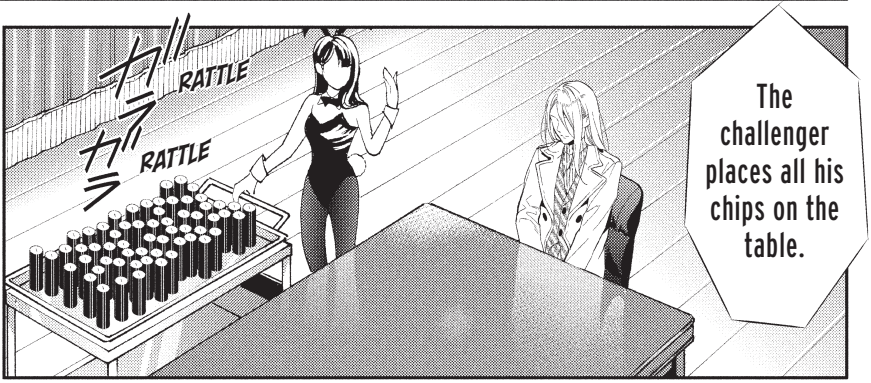
DETECTIVE CLUB!!



FILE ★ The Swindler, the Vanishing Man, and the Pretty Boys 3

Welcome to our famous special program!
Let the games begin!!
WOOOO

Please don't go shouting my full name in an illegal casino!
HE LOOKS GORGEOUS UP THERE, DOESN'T HE, YOUNG MAYUMI DOJIMA?
I CHOSE WELL WHEN I MADE HIM VICE PRESIDENT.
HA HA HA!

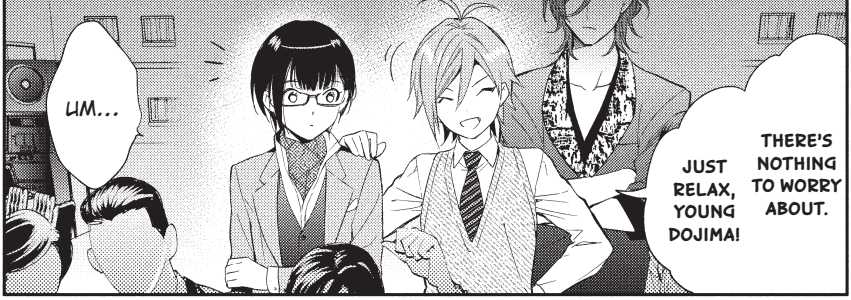

カラカラ
RATTLE
RATTLE
The challenger places all his chips on the table.

If he wins, however...

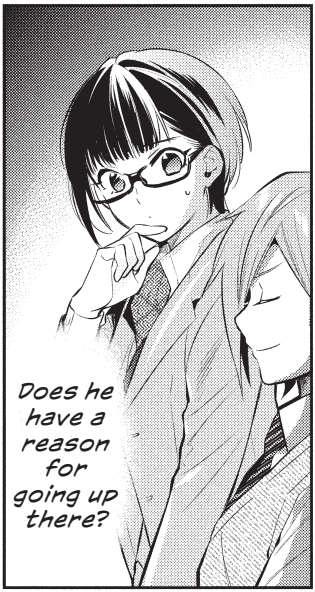
And if he loses, he loses them all!

the right to run the casino itself!
the maestro will transfer to him
WOOOO
WHAAAA ?!!
THIS IS THE BIGTIME!

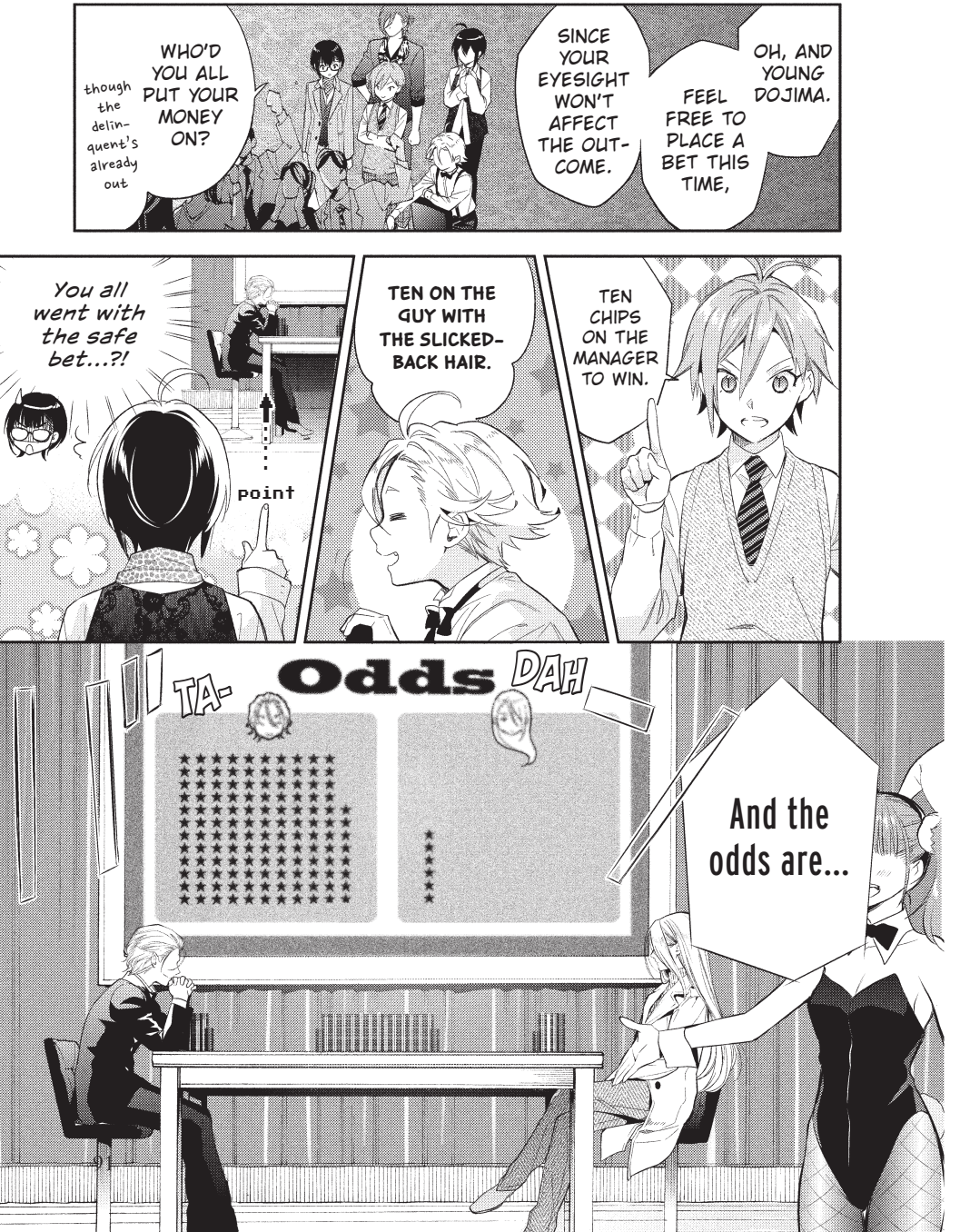
ウィィーン...
WHIRRRR
Of course, this special program is itself a chance for you to wager.
Will the maestro win?
Or will it be the challenger?
Place your bets!
わあああ
Is it absolute confidence...
Or absolute playfulness?
ME TOO. AFTER ALL, HE'S NEVER LOST!
I'M BETTING ON THE MAESTRO.

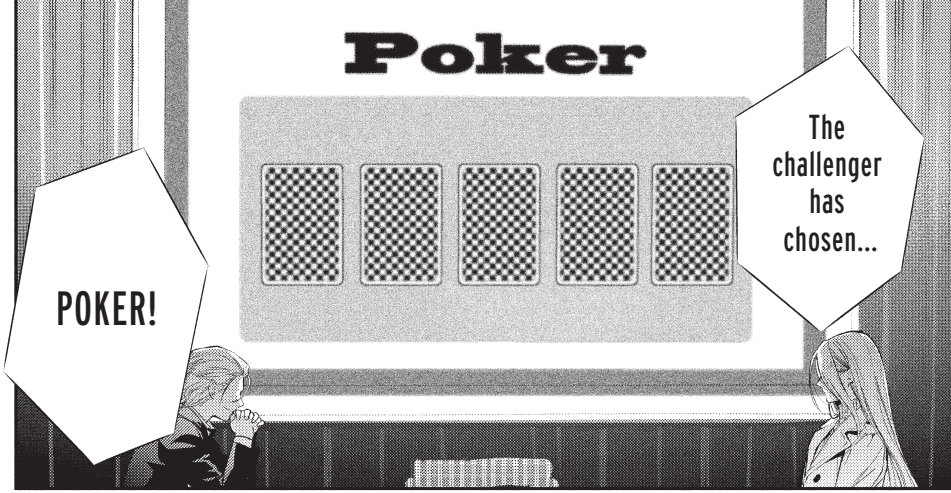

UM...
JUST RELAX, YOUNG DOJIMA!
THERE'S NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT.

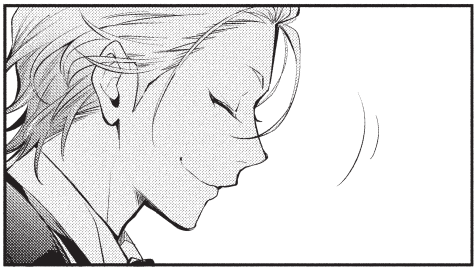
HE GOT UP THERE OF HIS OWN FREE WILL. HE KNOWS WHAT HE'S DOING!
NAGAHIRO IS NOT THE TYPE TO LOSE HIS HEAD AND BE SWEPT ONTO THE STAGE.

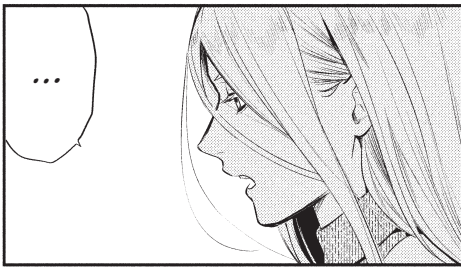

Does he have a reason for going up there?

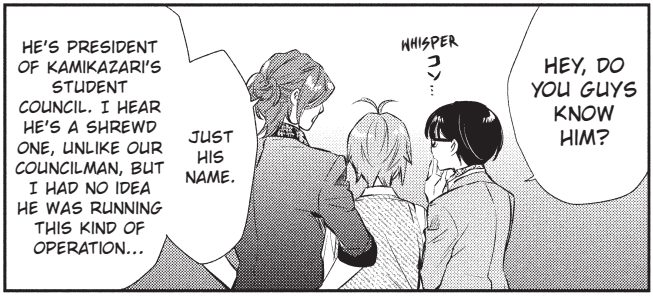
TOTALLY! WE ALL TRUST HIM WHEN IT COMES TO THAT.
HE'S NOT GONNA LOSE HIS GRIP JUST 'CAUSE HE'S SURROUNDED BY BUNNY GIRLS. THOUGH...
LITTLE GIRLS WOULD BE ANOTHER STORY.


WHO'D YOU ALL PUT YOUR MONEY ON?
though the delinquent's already out
SINCE YOUR EYESIGHT WON'T AFFECT THE OUTCOME.
OH, AND YOUNG DOJIMA.
FEEL FREE TO PLACE A BET THIS TIME,
You all went with the safe bet...?!
point
TEN ON THE GUY WITH THE SLICKED-BACK HAIR.
TEN CHIPS ON THE MANAGER TO WIN.
TA-
Odds
DAH
And the odds are...


Poker
POKER!
The challenger has chosen...




...

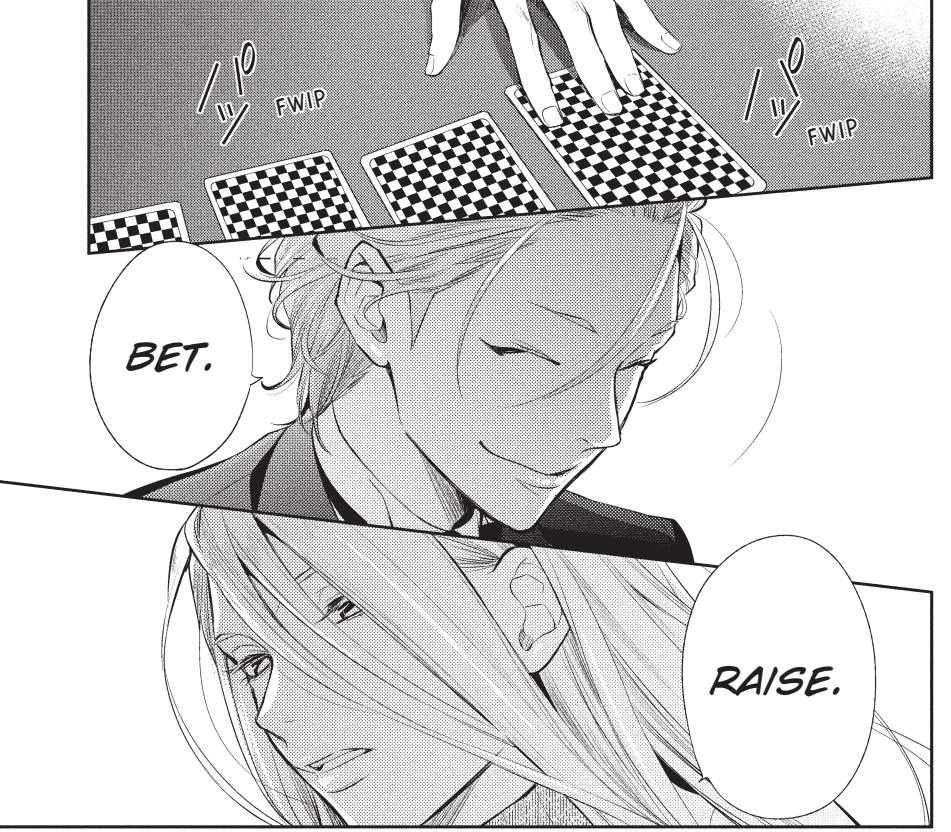

HEY, DO YOU GUYS KNOW HIM?
WHISPER
コソ…
JUST HIS NAME.
HE'S PRESIDENT OF KAMIKAZARI'S STUDENT COUNCIL. I HEAR HE'S A SHREWD ONE, UNLIKE OUR COUNCILMAN, BUT I HAD NO IDEA HE WAS RUNNING THIS KIND OF OPERATION...

Huh? Did they say something to each other?
So this isn't their first encounter after all...

I DON'T KNOW THE GUY.
BUT AFTER TODAY, MY OPINION OF THIS SCHOOL HAS REALLY IMPROVED.
WONDER IF HE'S MADE SOME REFORMS.
HA HA HA

Only the two players and the dealer are on stage.
The preparations are complete. The game will now begin!
The chairs are arranged so we can't see the faces of the cards they're dealt.
I guess if we could, the players might be able to guess one another's hands from the crowd's reactions.
Neither player can bet more than their opponent currently has.
The ante is one chip.
They can trade in cards once per game, and each raise once.
Each player starts with thirty chips, and the game will continue until someone goes bust.

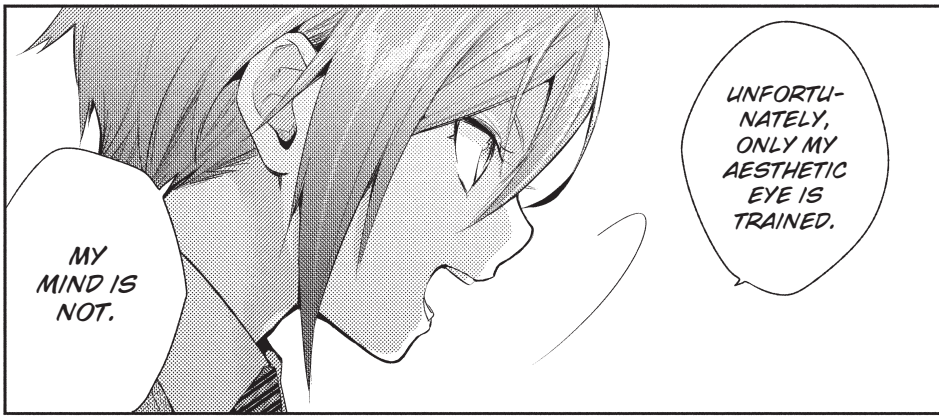
I know zilch about the rules of poker...
I know the names of the hands, but I don't know what they consist of...
At least, that's what the bunny girl says.
SHIT!
IF I HAD ANY MONEY LEFT, I'D BET IT ALL ON NAGAHIRO.
STOP BEING STUPID, DOJIMA.
IF I BET 100 YEN ON NAGAHIRO RIGHT NOW, I COULD WIN BACK EVERYTHING I LOST!
THUMP
That's exactly how people who lose their shirt gambling think.
Learn your lesson !!!
CLEARLY YOU HAVEN'T REFLECTED ON YOUR MISTAKES.
START
DUM
DA

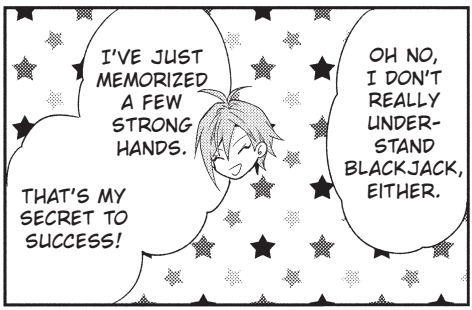

FWIP
FWIP
BET.
RAISE.

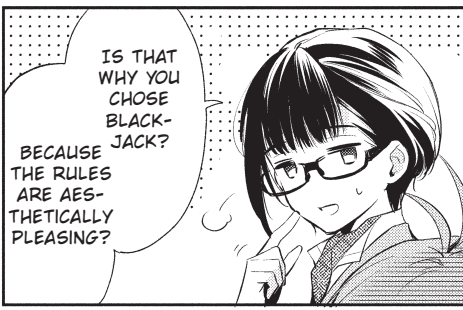
WAIT ...
WHAT JUST HAP-PENED?
HA HA HA

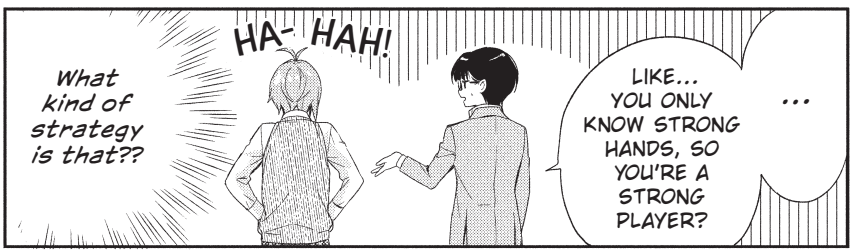
WOOO

You don't know either?!
huh?
THOUGH I DON'T KNOW THE RULES OF POKER, SO I DON'T GET IT EITHER.
NAGAHIRO SEEMS TO HAVE SET AN UNEXPECTED TRAP.


UNFORTUNATELY, ONLY MY AESTHETIC EYE IS TRAINED.
MY MIND IS NOT.


I'VE JUST MEMORIZED A FEW STRONG HANDS.
THAT'S MY SECRET TO SUCCESS!
OH NO, I DON'T REALLY UNDERSTAND BLACKJACK, EITHER.

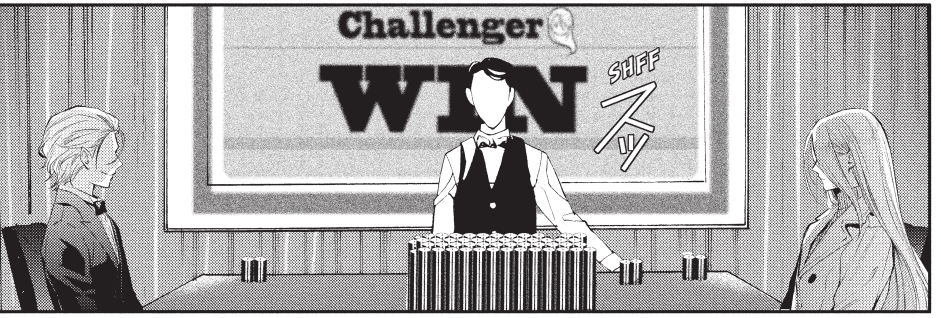

IS THAT WHY YOU CHOSE BLACKJACK?
BECAUSE THE RULES ARE AESTHETICALLY PLEASING?

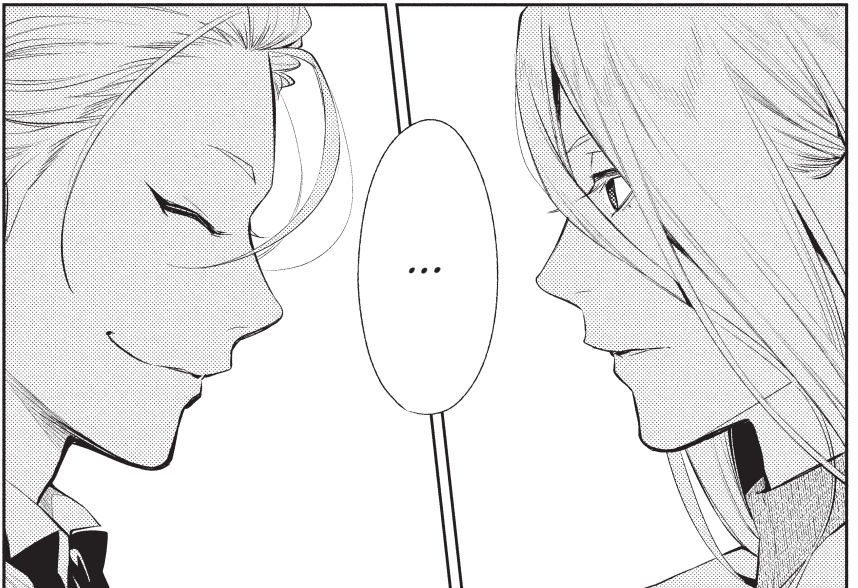

What kind of strategy is that??
HA- HAH!
LIKE... YOU ONLY KNOW STRONG HANDS, SO YOU'RE A STRONG PLAYER?
...

THE FIRST GAME'S OVER.

MURMUR

MURMUR





Sakiguchi won the second game, too (I think).

Fudatsuki won the third (as far as I could tell).

Were we watching a well-matched tug of war?

With the score at two to one, the chips were about even.

A sudden windfall, quickly reversed ...

a little win, a big loss.

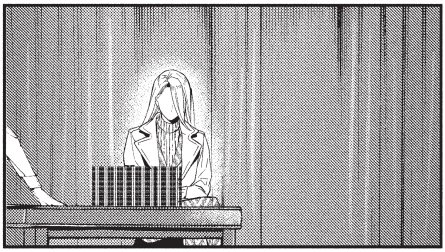
A big win, a little loss,

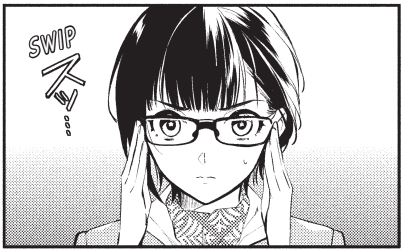
It kept on like that:

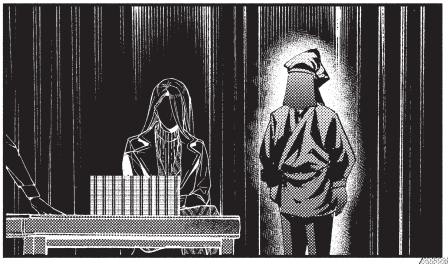
SWP
I'm beat, maybe I'll head over to the lounge for a drink...
This back-and-forth is going on forever.
PHEW ...
?!!!
I saw.
noticed.
In that moment, I—and only I—
I saw...
When I took off my glasses,

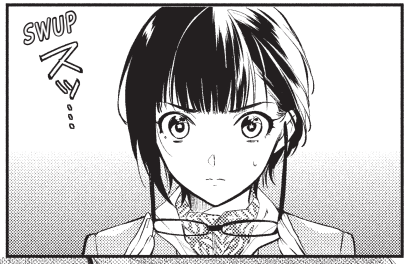
The manager, Fuda-tsuki,
the chal-lenger, Sakigu-chi,
and the dealer— they should be the only people on stage.
But there's a fourth figure ...!!!
A kuroko?!

How long has it been there?
Probably from the start!
No one else can see it...
Is it a phantom?
Sakiguchi's guardian angel?
Hardly!
That kuroko is tipping Fudatsuki to what's in Sakiguchi's hand!



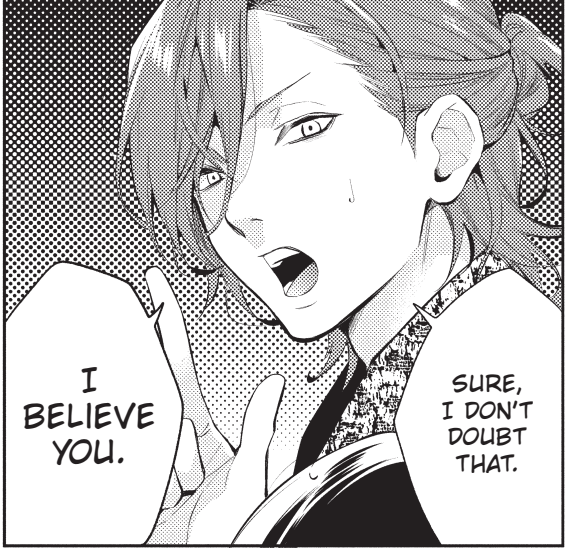

SWIP
スッ…




SWUP
スッ…

They say the maestro is undefeated...
They call it a high-stakes battle with the casino itself on the line, but...
They bring guests who win too much up on stage and make them bet everything.

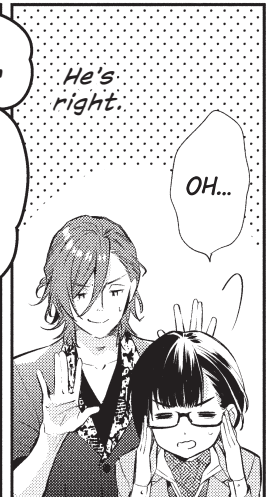
THIS IS A SCA—
CLAMP
CALM DOWN, YOU IDIOT.
MMN?!!
THINK ABOUT WHERE YOU ARE.
TH-THIS IS NO TIME FOR THAT!
SO THAT'S WHAT YOU CALL ME IN YOUR HEAD?
DELIN-QUENT?
GASP
BUT DELIN-QUENT!


I BELIEVE YOU.
SURE, I DON'T DOUBT THAT.

YOU MIGHT NOT BE ABLE TO SEE IT, D... FUKUROI, BUT I CAN!
IT REALLY IS A SCAM!
STEAM
STEAM

BUT THERE'S NO POINT SHOUTING IT IN THIS NEST OF VIPERS!

THE GUY WITH THE LOLICON IS GOING ALL IN!
HEY,
LOOK!


He's right.
OH...

PUSH
AHA!
STAKING IT ALL, HOW BEAUTIFUL!
WHAT IS IT, YOUNG DOJIMA?
YOU'VE BEEN FIDGETING WITH YOUR GLASSES, IS THAT SOME SORT OF GAG?
It's no good, Sakiguchi!
Here's what I can see:

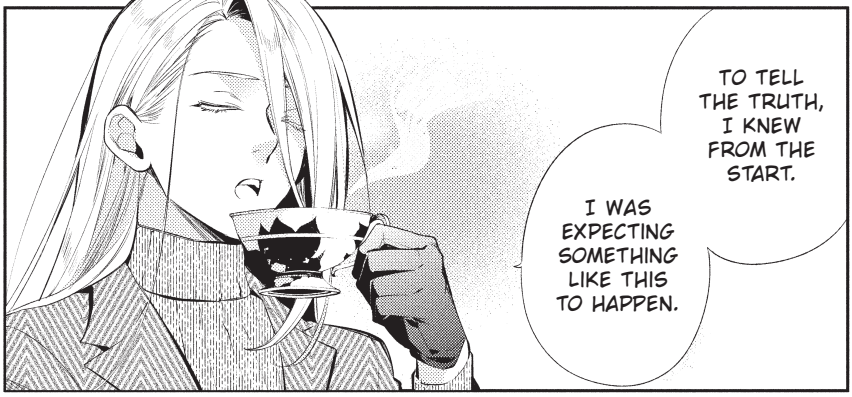
The cards Sakiguchi is staking it all on.
(He's got a decent hand... I think.)
Giving the sign.
The kuroko looking over his shoulder.
Fudatsuki receiving it.

I even feel like I can see him secretly gloating ...
SMIRK
WOOOOOOOO

HEH
MY DEAR MEMBERS OF THE PRETTY BOY DETECTIVE CLUB.
WE HOPE TO HAVE THE PLEASURE OF YOUR COMPANY AGAIN,
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

HA HA HA
ETTY BOY DETECTIVE LUB HQ
THE KUROKO WAS WEARING INVISIBLE CLOTHING, I ASSUME?
IT'S JUST LIKE "THE EMPEROR'S NEW CLOTHES"!
GLINK
THE FACT SHE CALLED HIM OUT MEANS THAT SHE STILL HAS THE INNOCENT HEART OF A YOUNG BOY.
AND YOUNG DOJIMA WAS THE ONLY ONE SHARP ENOUGH TO SEE THROUGH THE FARCE.
It's not that I saw the person under the clothes...
POINT

IN THE ORIGINAL VERSION, AFTER THE KID POINTS OUT THAT THE EMPEROR IS NAKED, THE PARADE CONTINUES.
ずるっ
SLURP
HE'S RIGHT, BUT EVERYONE IGNORES HIM 'CAUSE HE'S JUST A KID.
PRETTY DEEP FOR A CHILDREN'S STORY.

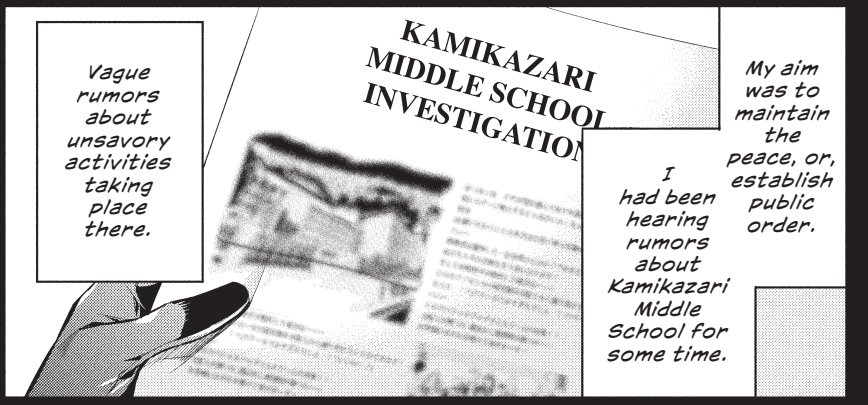

TO TELL THE TRUTH, I KNEW FROM THE START.
I WAS EXPECTING SOMETHING LIKE THIS TO HAPPEN.

ZZZ

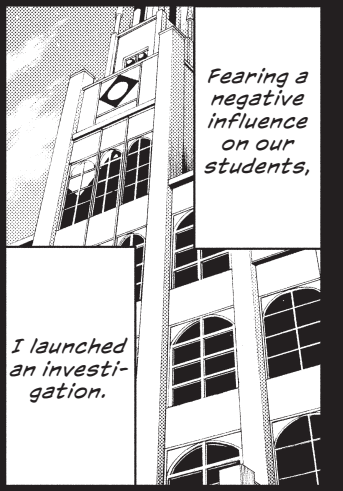
もぐ
CHOMP
...

WHERE TO BEGIN?
I FIND MYSELF REGRETTING THAT I DIDN'T INFORM YOU OF THIS
CLATTER カチャ
WHEN MS. DOJIMA FIRST TOLD US OF HER ENCOUNTER.
CHAK カク
もぐ NOM
OHO, YOU SEEM TO HAVE A NOTION, NAGAHIRO.
PRAY TELL US WHAT IT IS.
TAP コツ
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN ...
TAP コツ

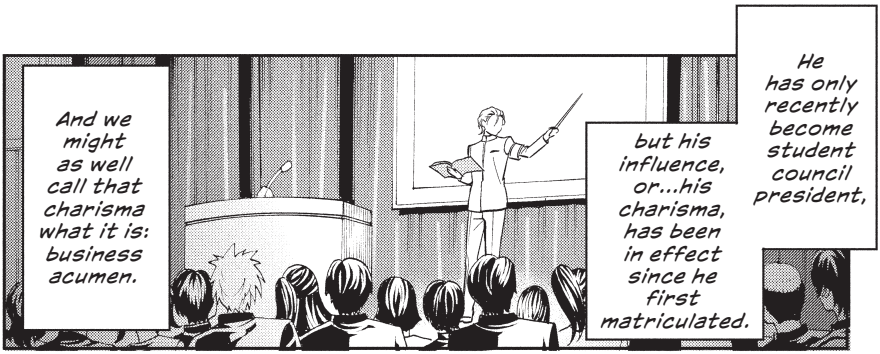
but rather as president of the Yubiwa Academy student council.
I did not conduct the investigation which I am about to discuss in my capacity as a member of this club,

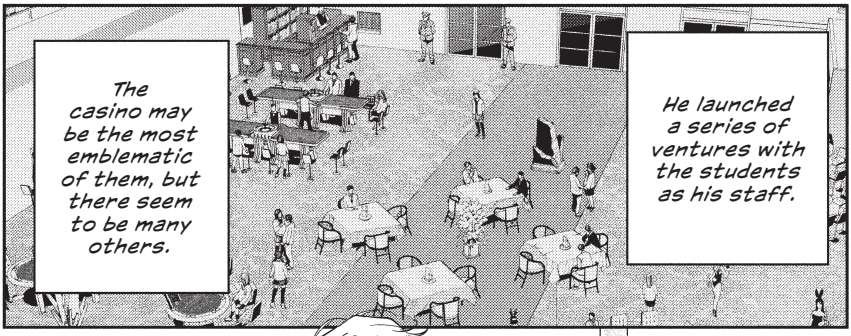

Vague rumors about unsavory activities taking place there.
KAMIKAZARI MIDDLE SCHOOL INVESTIGATION
I had been hearing rumors about Kamikazari Middle School for some time.
My aim was to maintain the peace, or, establish public order.

I sensed the students were putting up a united front.
I met with limited success, however.
No one would talk.


Fearing a negative influence on our students,
I launched an investigation.

Kamikazari Middle wasn't always like that.
When I was a first-year, it was a much freer place.
It only became such a tightly controlled school
after he enrolled.
HE.
YES— FUDATSUKI.



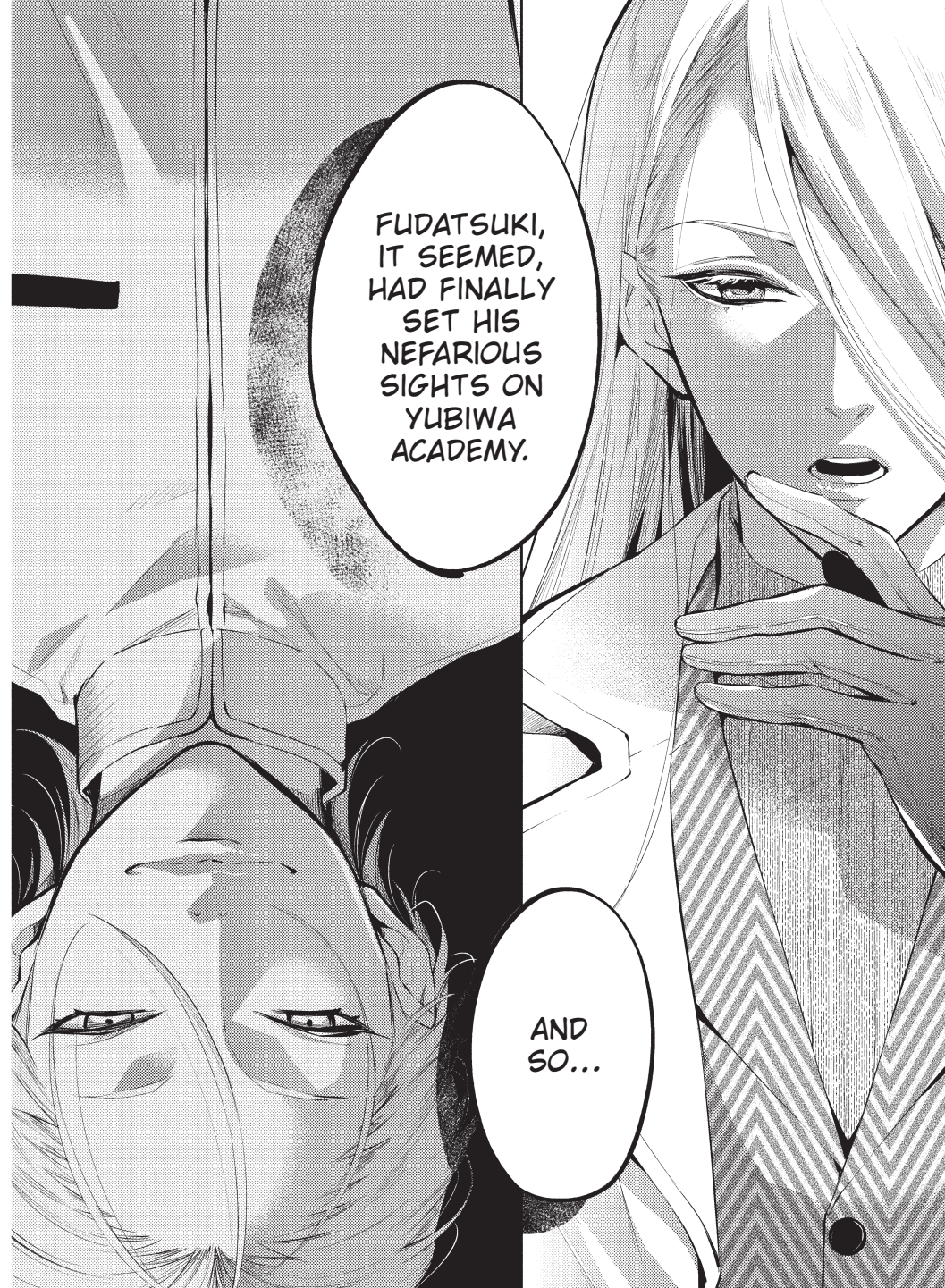


In the blink of an eye, he had Kamikazari under his thumb.

Calling it the power of money has a nasty ring,

but there's no question Fudatsuki brought a certain order to the school.

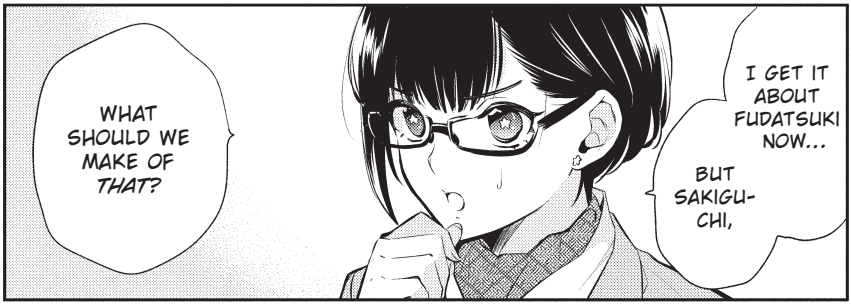
HE IS NOT THE TYPE TO BE SATISFIED WITH CONTROLLING HIS OWN SCHOOL ALONE.
APPEAR-ANCES TO THE CONTRARY, HE IS INTENSELY AMBITIOUS.
AS MS. DOJIMA HAS ALREADY GUESSED,
HE AND I HAD PREVIOUSLY CROSSED PATHS IN OUR OFFICIAL CAPACITIES.
SO I KNEW WHAT KIND OF PERSON HE WAS.
IN ALL HONESTY, I DID NOT KNOW WHAT HE WAS DOING OR PLANNING.
I FEARED HE WOULD SOON MOVE TO SEIZE CONTROL OF OTHERS.
I SENSED THE CRITICAL MOMENT HAD ARRIVED.
BUT WHEN I HEARD MS. DOJIMA DESCRIBE HER "MR. BUSINESSMAN" THE OTHER DAY,

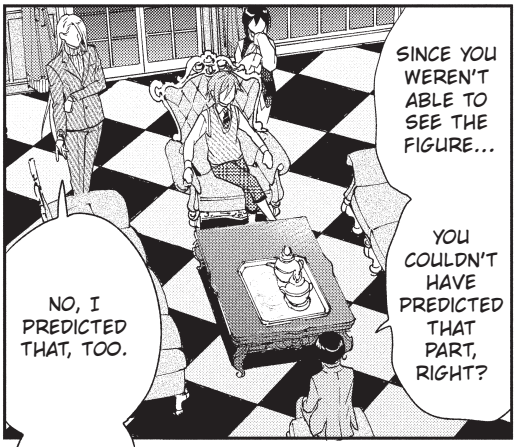

FUDATSUKI, IT SEEMED, HAD FINALLY SET HIS NEFARIOUS SIGHTS ON YUBIWA ACADEMY.
AND SO...

About that boundary line between Yubiwa Academy and Kamikazari Middle School–
We crossed it.
To visit the Reason-able Doubt Casino.
Fudatsuki was using that counterfeit million yen as literal groundbait to lure Yubiwa students to his casino.

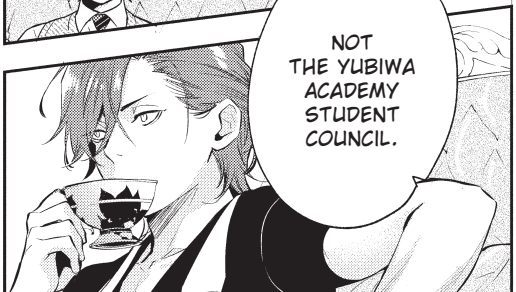
This was, without a doubt, an invasion of Yubiwa Academy's territory.

FILE ★ The Swindler, the Vanishing Man, and the Pretty Boys 4


I GET IT ABOUT FUDATSUKI NOW...
BUT SAKIGUCHI,
WHAT SHOULD WE MAKE OF *THAT*?

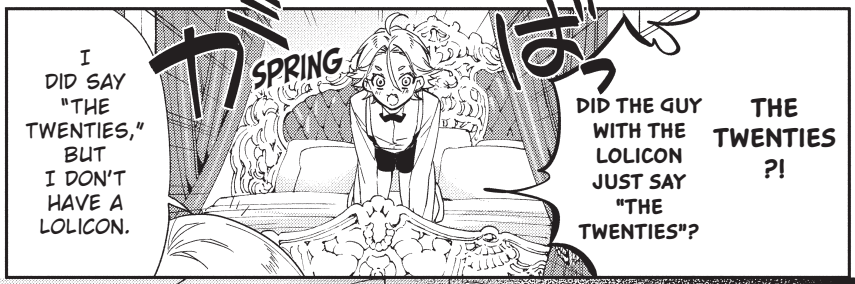

SINCE YOU WEREN'T ABLE TO SEE THE FIGURE...
YOU COULDN'T HAVE PREDICTED THAT PART, RIGHT?
NO, I PREDICTED THAT, TOO.

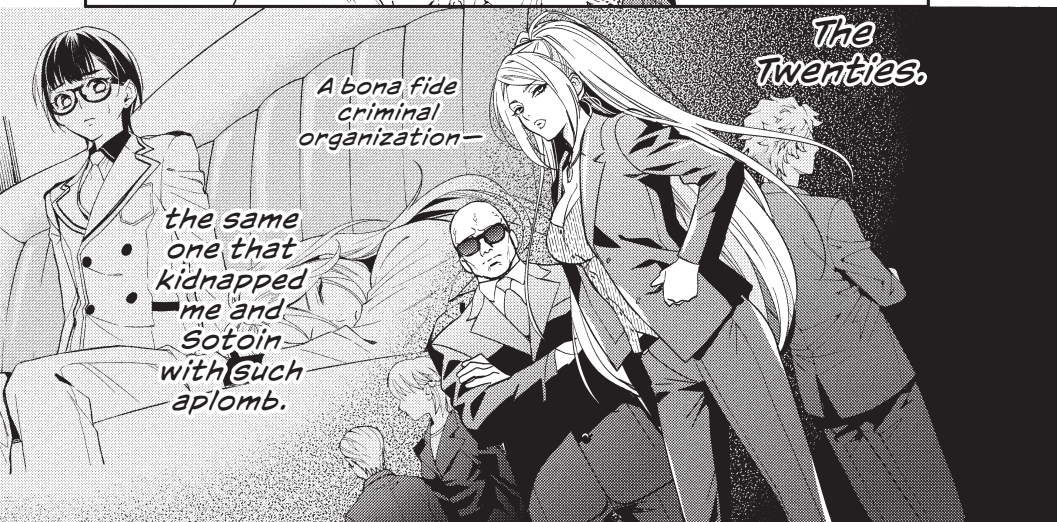
HOWEVER ...
THE ANSWER TO *THAT* QUESTION IS THE CONCERN OF THE PRETTY BOY DETECTIVE CLUB,
?

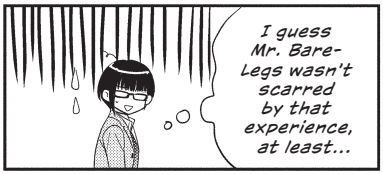

NOT THE YUBIWA ACADEMY STUDENT COUNCIL.

The trick...
The kuroko.

MS. DOJIMA,
DO YOU REMEMBER THE TWENTIES?

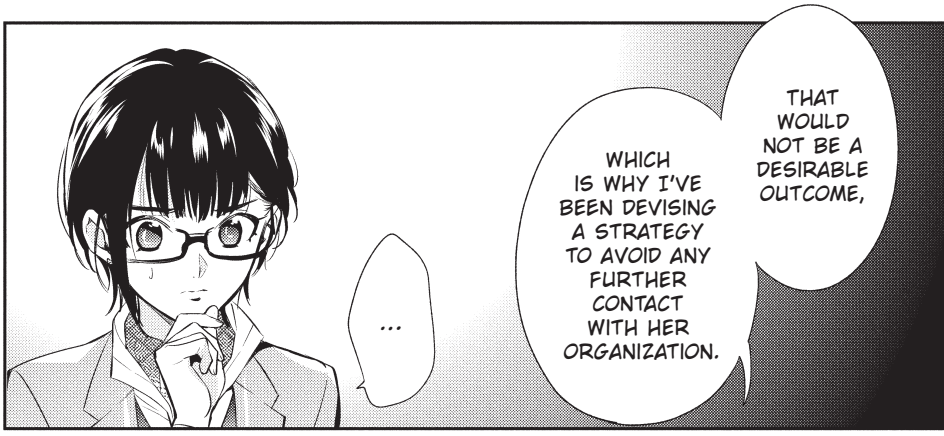

THE TWENTIES ?!
DID THE GUY WITH THE LOLICON JUST SAY "THE TWENTIES"?
ガバッ
SPRING
I DID SAY "THE TWENTIES," BUT I DON'T HAVE A LOLICON.

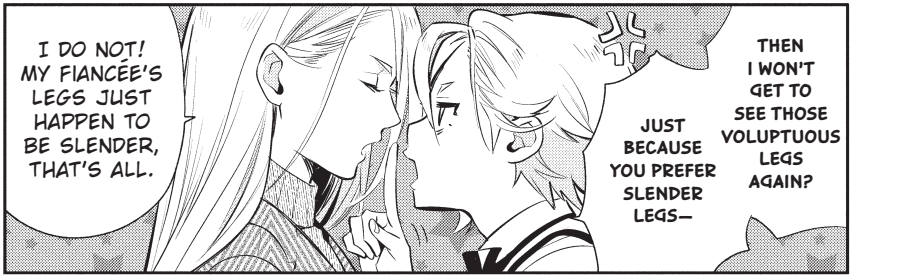

The Twenties.
A bona fide criminal organization—
the same one that kidnapped me and Sotoin with such aplomb.


I guess Mr. Bare-Legs wasn't scarred by that experience, at least...

ビシャッ!
POINT
NO YOU DO NOT!

THAT GORGEOUS WOMAN?
THEN, I GET TO SEE REI AGAIN?
どぎ
BA-DUMP
BA-DUMP
おっぱい
OO LA LA
THE REI-VISHING BEAUTY WITH TWENTY FACES?!


...
WHICH IS WHY I'VE BEEN DEVISING A STRATEGY TO AVOID ANY FURTHER CONTACT WITH HER ORGANIZATION.
THAT WOULD NOT BE A DESIRABLE OUTCOME,


I DO NOT! MY FIANCÉE'S LEGS JUST HAPPEN TO BE SLENDER, THAT'S ALL.
JUST BECAUSE YOU PREFER SLENDER LEGS—
THEN I WON'T GET TO SEE THOSE VOLUPTUOUS LEGS AGAIN?

SO, NAGA-HIRO?
ahem!
HOW ARE THE TWENTIES INVOLVED IN THAT CASINO?
I'LL EXPLAIN EVERY-THING IN GOOD TIME.
ジロッ
じーっ
AND HYOTA...
DON'T WORRY, I'LL KEEP MY THOUGHTS TO MYSELF.
ぼふっ
FWUMP
LAST TIME, WE FORTUITOUSLY MANAGED TO HOLD OFF THE TWENTIES.
I FEARED WE WOULD NOT BE SO LUCKY NEXT TIME.
EVEN ENGAGING WITH THAT WOMAN AND HER ORGANIZATION WOULD BE A DEFEAT OF SORTS.

THERE ARE SOME PEOPLE IN THIS WORLD WITH WHOM ONE SHOULD NEVER GET INVOLVED.

SO I DECIDED TO ASK SOSAKU'S ASSISTANCE

IN INVESTIGATING THE ORGANIZATION KNOWN AS THE TWENTIES.

NOD

NOD

ITS STRUCTURE, ITS ACTIVITIES, ITS SCALE...

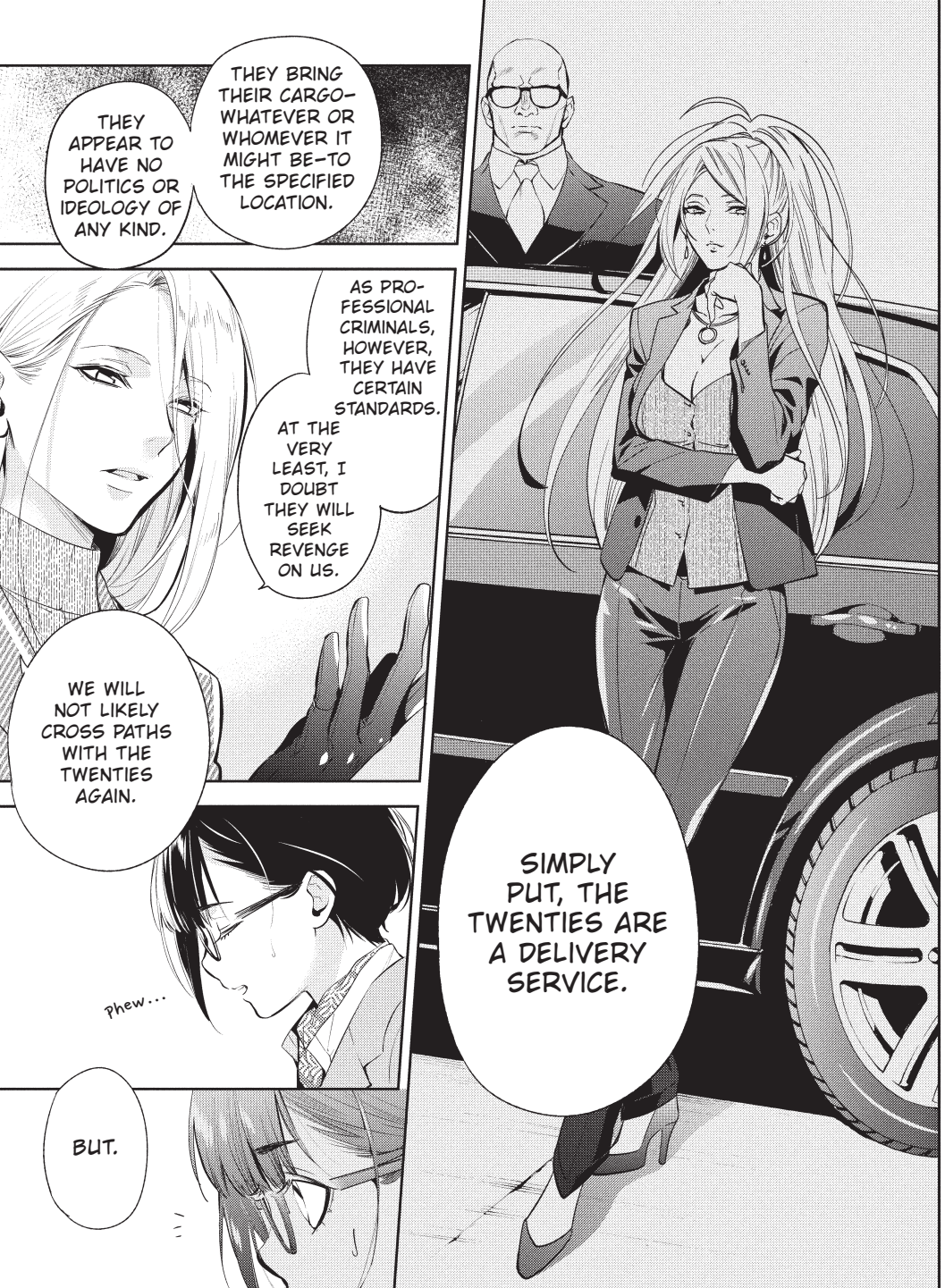
THE LIKELIHOOD OF CROSSING PATHS ONCE MORE,

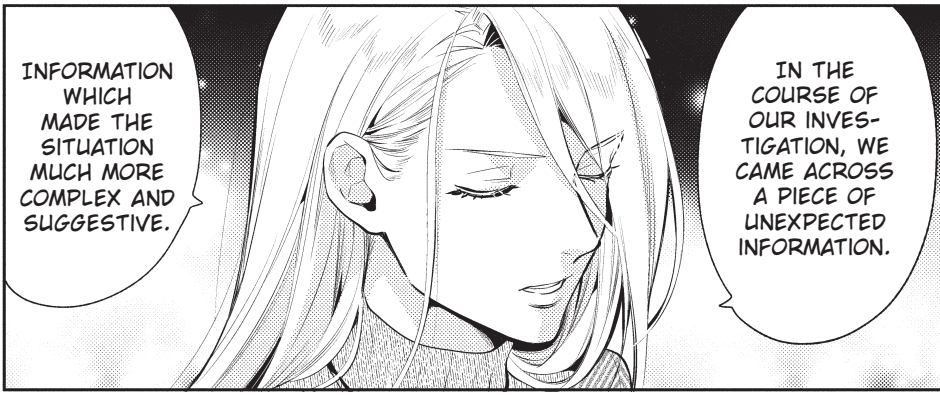
AND HOW TO EXTRICATE OURSELVES SHOULD THAT HAPPEN.

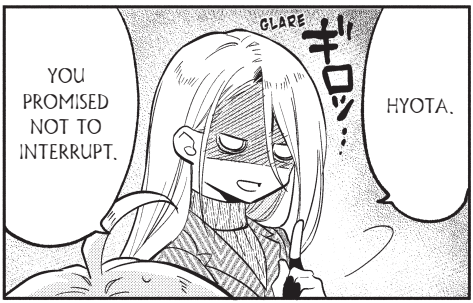
AND? WHAT'D YOU FIND OUT?

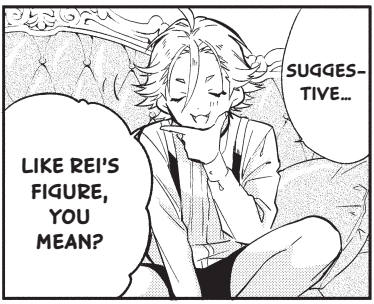
GLUB GLUB

コポポ…


THEY BRING THEIR CARGO—WHATEVER OR WHOMEVER IT MIGHT BE—TO THE SPECIFIED LOCATION.
THEY APPEAR TO HAVE NO POLITICS OR IDEOLOGY OF ANY KIND.
AS PROFESSIONAL CRIMINALS, HOWEVER, THEY HAVE CERTAIN STANDARDS.
AT THE VERY LEAST, I DOUBT THEY WILL SEEK REVENGE ON US.
WE WILL NOT LIKELY CROSS PATHS WITH THE TWENTIES AGAIN.
Phew...
BUT.
SIMPLY PUT, THE TWENTIES ARE A DELIVERY SERVICE.

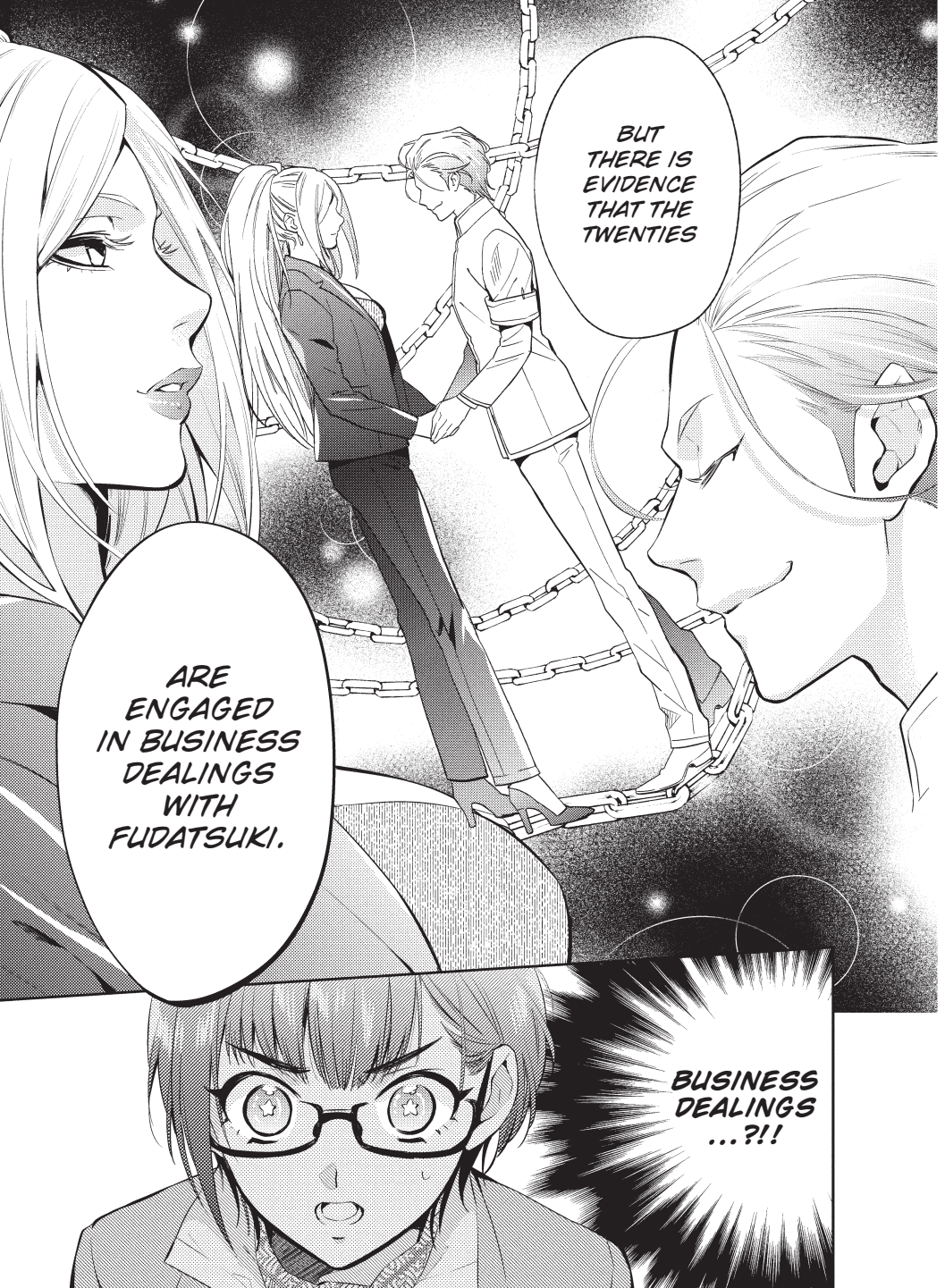

INFORMATION WHICH MADE THE SITUATION MUCH MORE COMPLEX AND SUGGESTIVE.
IN THE COURSE OF OUR INVESTIGATION, WE CAME ACROSS A PIECE OF UNEXPECTED INFORMATION.

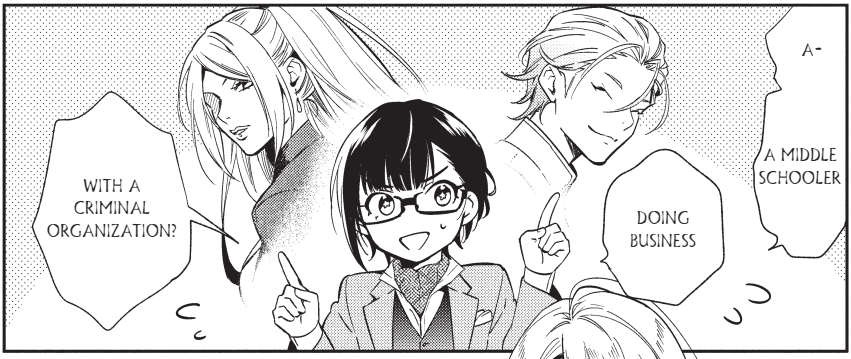

YOU PROMISED NOT TO INTERRUPT.
GLARE
ギロッ…
HYOTA.

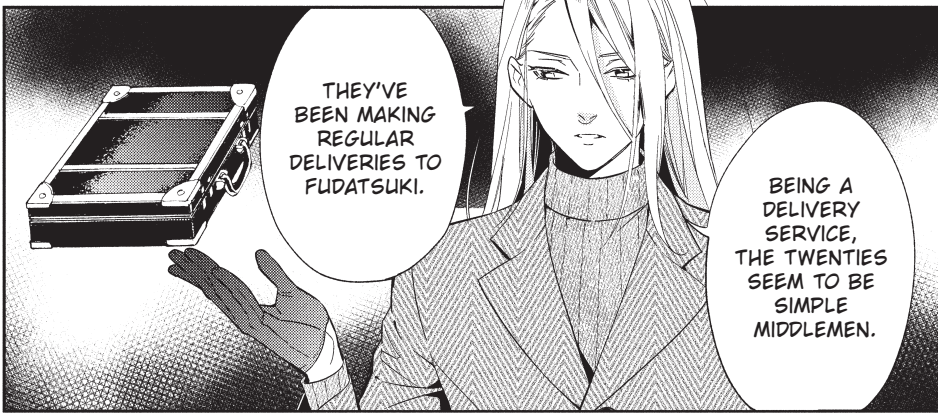

LIKE REI'S FIGURE, YOU MEAN?
SUGGESTIVE…

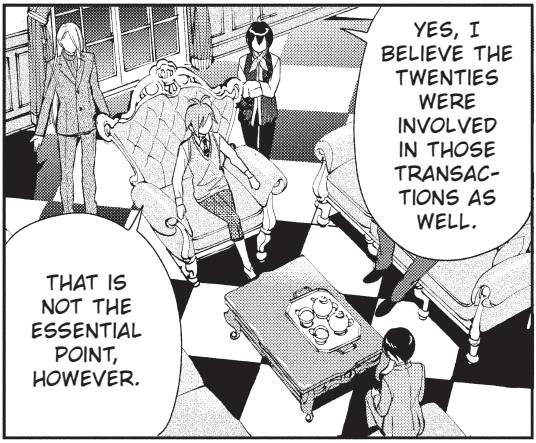
I COULDN'T BELIEVE MY EARS EITHER…

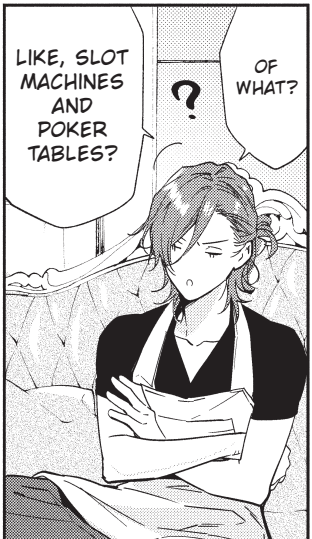
IN ANY EVENT, THE INFORMATION HAD TO DO WITH KAMIKAZARI MIDDLE.


BUT THERE IS EVIDENCE THAT THE TWENTIES
ARE ENGAGED IN BUSINESS DEALINGS WITH FUDATSUKI.
BUSINESS DEALINGS ...?!!


A-
A MIDDLE SCHOOLER
DOING BUSINESS
WITH A CRIMINAL ORGANIZATION?


THEY'VE BEEN MAKING REGULAR DELIVERIES TO FUDATSUKI.
BEING A DELIVERY SERVICE, THE TWENTIES SEEM TO BE SIMPLE MIDDLEMEN.


YES, I BELIEVE THE TWENTIES WERE INVOLVED IN THOSE TRANSACTIONS AS WELL.
THAT IS NOT THE ESSENTIAL POINT, HOWEVER.

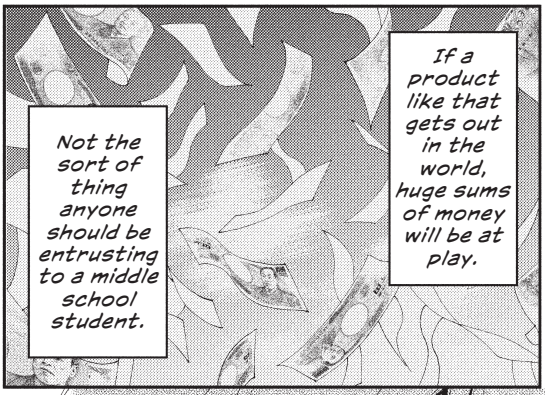

OF WHAT?
?
LIKE, SLOT MACHINES AND POKER TABLES?

A PRIVATE COMPANY APPEARS TO BE SENDING FUDATSUKI
CONSIGN-MENTS OF PRODUCTS IN DEVELOP-MENT.
AND HE SEEMS TO BE BETA TESTING THEM,
WHICH SERVES AS HIS MAIN SOURCE OF INCOME.
WHAT THE HELL?
ALL HE'S GOTTA DO IS SAY IF IT WAS EASY TO USE OR NOT?
TELL THEM IF HE LIKED IT OR NOT?
AND THAT'S HOW HE'S ABLE TO KEEP RUNNING THE CASINO?
TO THE CONTRARY, I'D SAY THAT'S *WHY* HE'S RUNNING THE CASINO—
TO TEST THE PRODUCT HE'S CURRENTLY REPORTING ON.

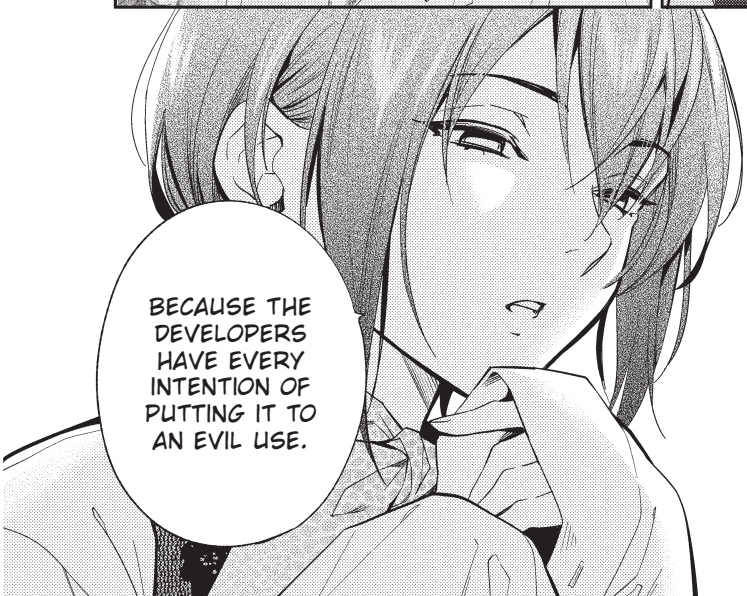
THOSE INVISIBLE BLACK CLOTHES.
THE ONES THE KUROKO WAS WEARING.
THE INVIS-IBLE BLACK CLOTHES ?!!

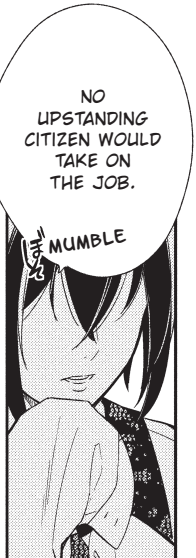
Using the eyes of the audience
He was using the whole casino for his own ends...
to test out the clothes...
Or rather, to try them on for size.
CLOTHES NO ONE COULD SEE...
NO ONE BUT ME.
DOES THAT KIND OF THING REALLY EXIST?!
I COULD HARDLY BELIEVE IT MY-SELF.
BUT WHEN I HEARD YOUR STORY THE OTHER DAY, MS. DOJIMA,
SOME-THING CLICKED.

A MAN WHO VANISHED INTO THIN AIR.
HE MUST HAVE USED THE CLOTHES TO DO THAT.

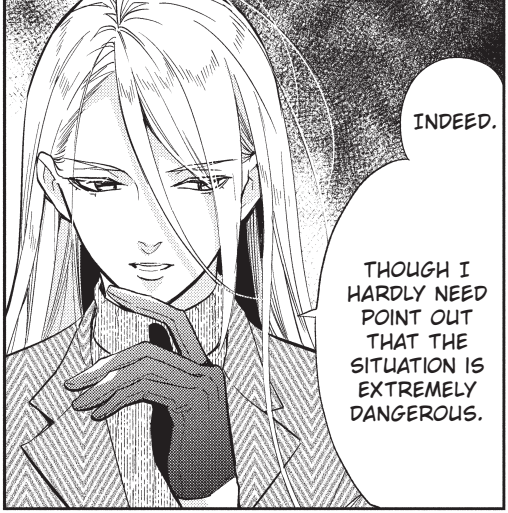

If a product like that gets out in the world, huge sums of money will be at play.
Not the sort of thing anyone should be entrusting to a middle school student.

BUT THE DEVELOPMENT OF A SCI-FI PRODUCT LIKE THAT
MUST BE A TRADE SECRET, RIGHT?


BECAUSE THE DEVELOPERS HAVE EVERY INTENTION OF PUTTING IT TO AN EVIL USE.


NO UPSTANDING CITIZEN WOULD TAKE ON THE JOB.
ぼそぼそ MUMBLE

WHAT?
FIRST A MILITARY SATELLITE...
It can't be!
CLAP
A military application ?!


INDEED.
THOUGH I HARDLY NEED POINT OUT THAT THE SITUATION IS EXTREMELY DANGEROUS.

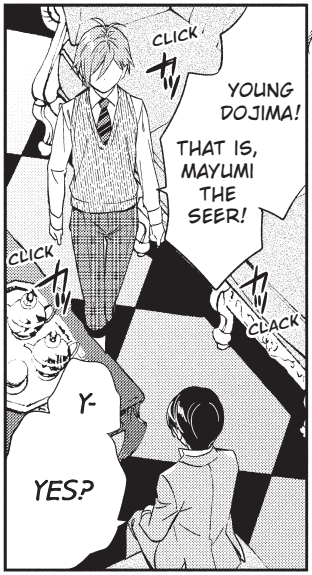
A PRIVATE MILITARY CONTRACTOR, HUH?
WITH THAT KIND OF BACKING, MAKING SOME OVER-SPEC COUNTERFEIT BILLS WOULD BE A PIECE OF CAKE!

It's not only the guests...
but the bunny girls and dealers, too...
Every one of those innocent boys and girls is at risk of an "unfortunate event."

WITH CLOTHES LIKE THAT, THEY SHOULD JUST SNEAK INTO THE GIRLS' LOCKER ROOM AND LEAVE IT AT THAT!
...

SO, MR. PRESIDENT, WHADDA WE DO?
KNOWING YOU, I BET YOU SEE SOME KIND OF AESTHETIC BEAUTY IN WHAT THEY'RE DOING.
BUT YOU'VE GOTTA ADMIT THEY'VE GONE TOO FAR, RIGHT?
HEH
MICHIRU.
IF I'M NOT MISTAKEN ...
YOU'RE ASKING IF I THINK WE SHOULD RETURN TO THE REASONABLE DOUBT,
SEIZE THE RIGHT TO RUN THE CASINO BY BEATING THE MANAGER IN ANOTHER SPECIAL PROGRAM,
AND UTTERLY DESTROY THE PROVING GROUND WHERE HE'S BEEN TESTING THOSE WOULD-BE MILITARY-GRADE CLOTHES
BEFORE THEY CAN POSE A DANGER, RIGHT?

IN THAT CASE, MY ANSWER IS
YES!
ANYTHING ELSE WOULD VIOLATE MY PERSONAL AESTHETIC!

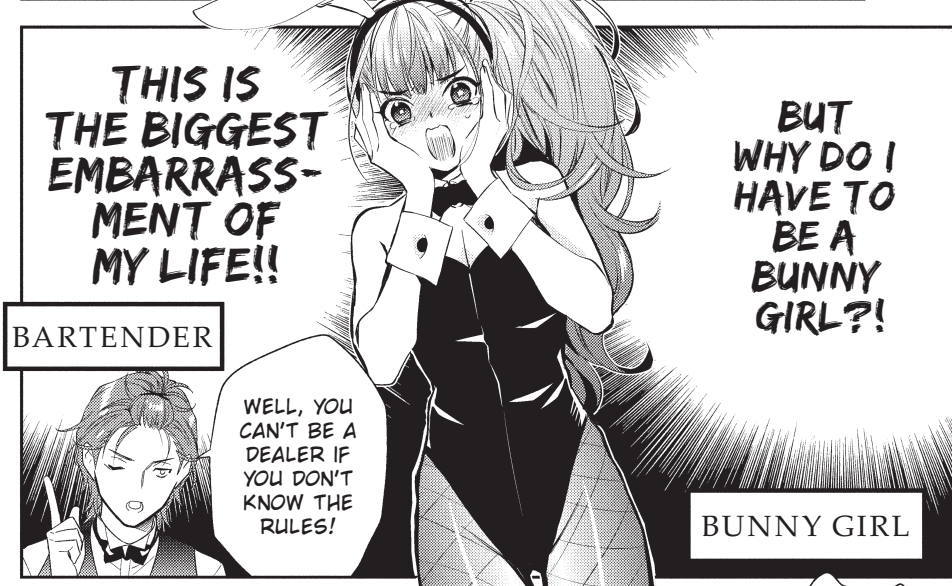

CLICK
YOUNG DOJIMA!
THAT IS, MAYUMI THE SEER!
CLICK
CLACK
Y-
YES?

GRAB
わっ
REJOICE!
THE TIME HAS ARRIVED FOR YOU TO OFFER UP YOUR EYESIGHT FOR THE GREATER GOOD!
EEK!
WHAAA?!
PANIC
あた
PANIC
ふた
PLUS, WE ONLY HAVE FOUR OF THESE LEFT.
I GUESS TWO OF US COULD STAY HERE...
IF WE SHOW UP THE SAME NIGHT WE WERE THROWN OUT, WE'RE GUARANTEED TO RAISE SUSPICION!
WAIT A SECOND.
I HAVE AN EXCELLENT PLAN!
WHIRL
NOD
SOSAKU!!

ドン
BAM

ドドドン
WHAM

DEALERS
I SEE. SO YOU INTEND FOR US TO BLEND INTO THE BACK-GROUND
DIS-GUISED AS STAFF.


THIS IS THE BIGGEST EMBARRASS-MENT OF MY LIFE!!
BUT WHY DO I HAVE TO BE A BUNNY GIRL?!
BARTENDER
WELL, YOU CAN'T BE A DEALER IF YOU DON'T KNOW THE RULES!
BUNNY GIRL

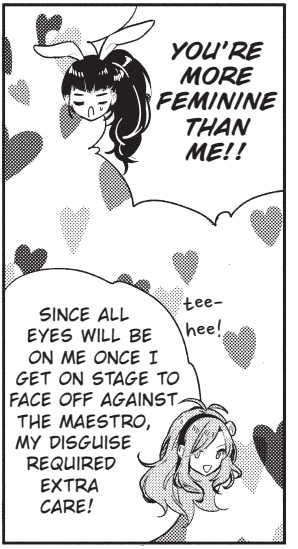
THIS FOOL WOULD RATHER DIE THAN DRESS UP AS A GIRL.
bet he'd look better than me in this outfit...
IF YOU WANTED TO SHOW OFF YOUR LEGS, YOU SHOULD'VE BEEN A BUNNY GIRL.
heh heh

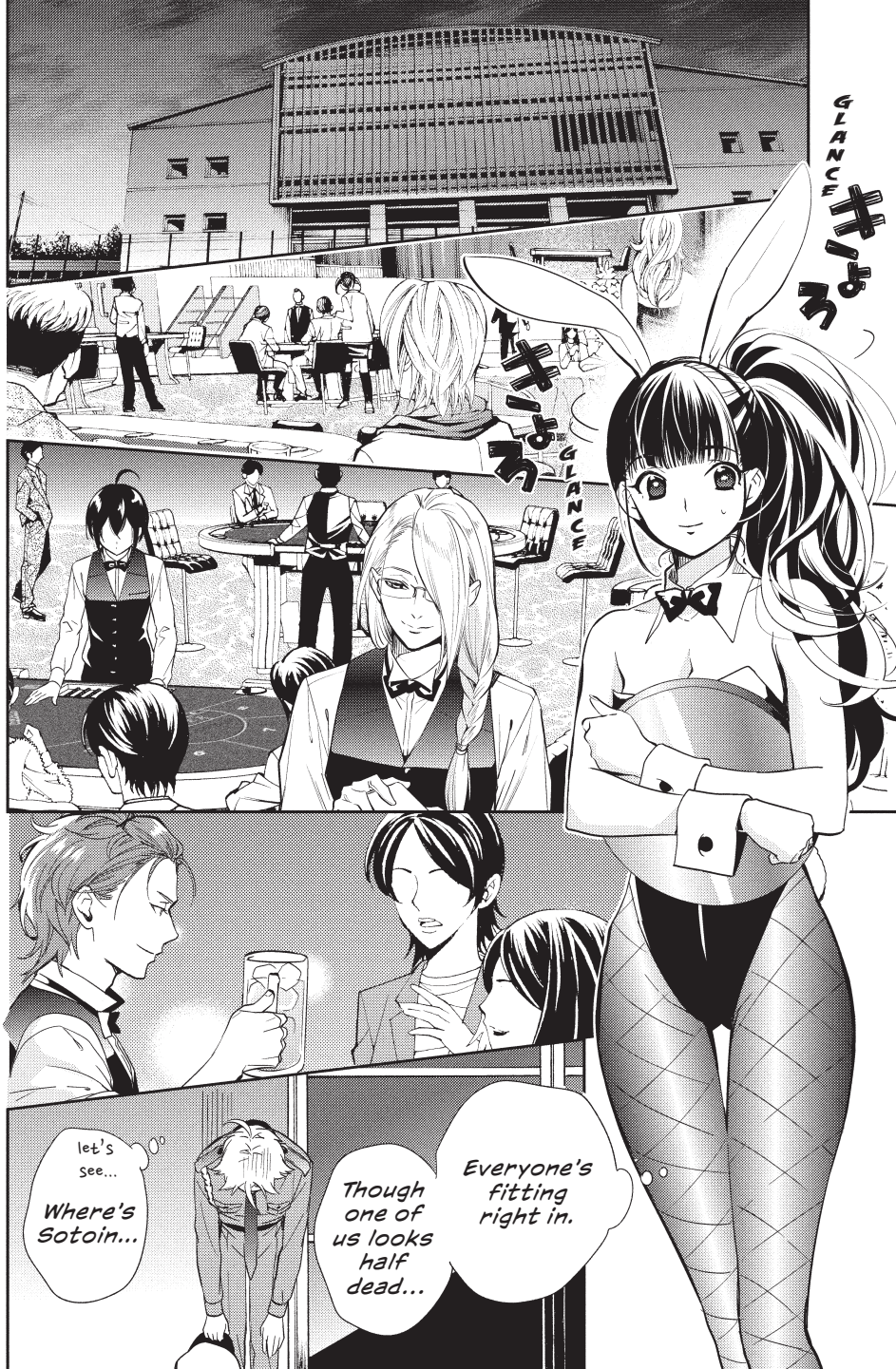
NO...
NOT...
N...
LONG PANTS...
SLUMP
SECURITY GUARD

But, Sotoin...

BA-DUM
ドキーン♥

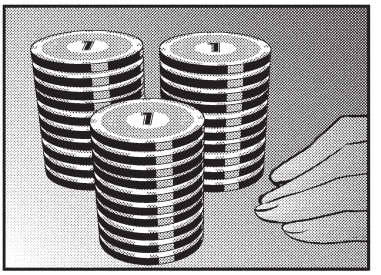
You're almost too beautiful !!!




GLANCE キョろ
キョろ GLANCE
Everyone's fitting right in.
Though one of us looks half dead...
let's see...
Where's Sotoin...

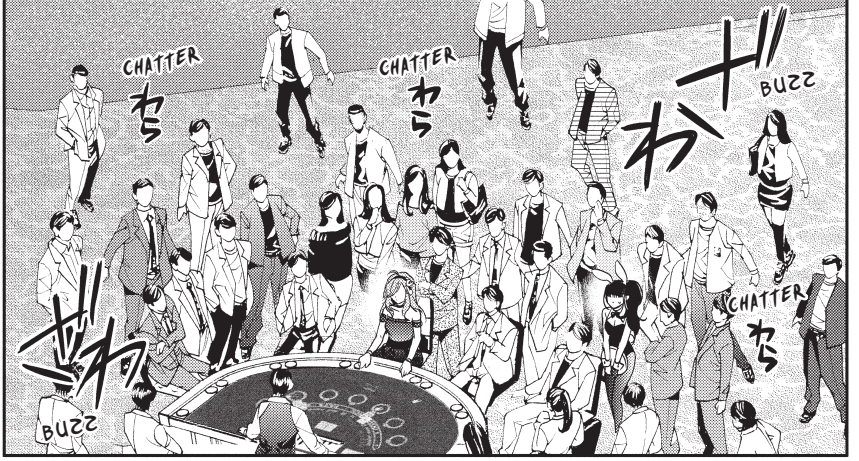
Hey!
He didn't even wait for my help before he started gambling!
SHOCK

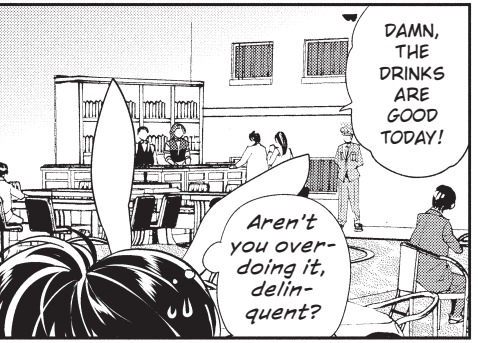
Wow, he's doing great.
At this rate, he won't even need my help 'til he gets on stage.

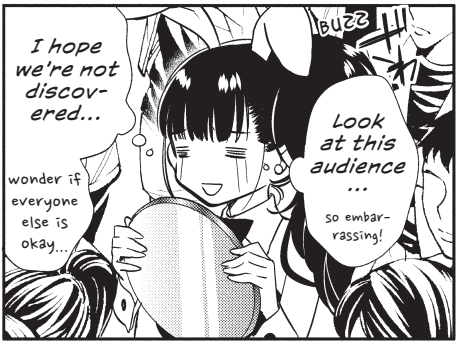


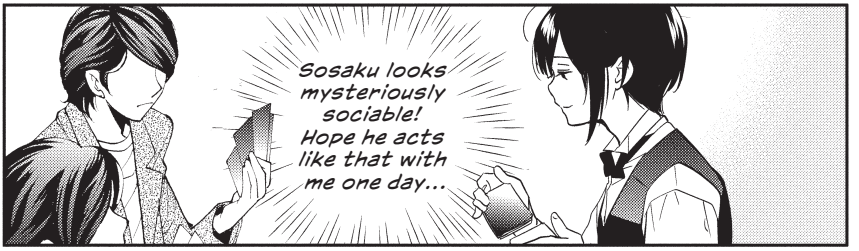
But he's got to get up there before we're caught, so let's move things along.
Signal Signal

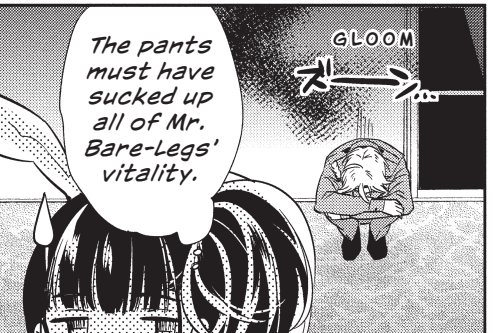
BAM
BAM
BAM
BOOM!
I mean, I can see what every card will be...
Now that I'm doing it, I see how badly we're breaking the rules...
If everyone did this, casinos could never survive.

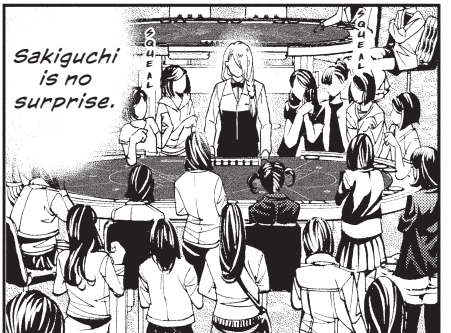

CHATTER
わら
CHATTER
わら
BUZZ
CHATTER
わら
BUZZ

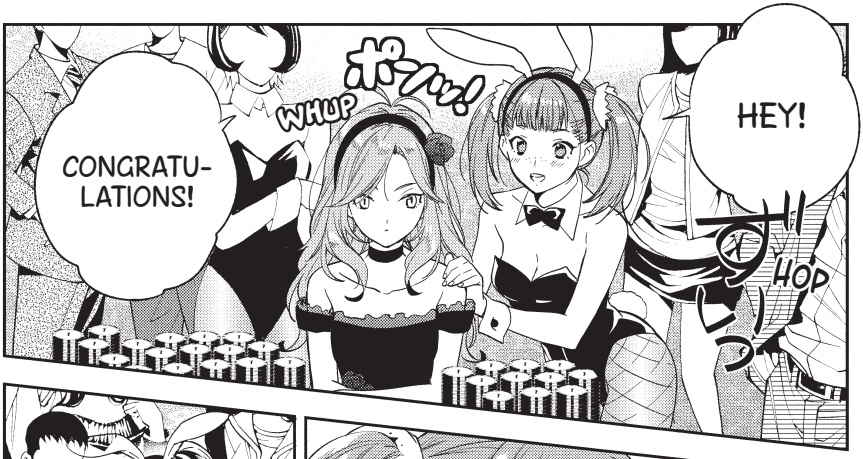

DAMN, THE DRINKS ARE GOOD TODAY!
Aren't you over-doing it, delin-quent?

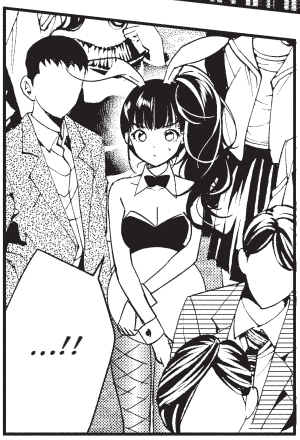

I hope we're not discov-ered...
wonder if everyone else is okay...
BUZZ
Look at this audience ...
so embar-rassing!


Sosaku looks mysteriously sociable! Hope he acts like that with me one day...


The pants must have sucked up all of Mr. Bare-Legs' vitality.
GLOOM
ズーン...


Sakiguchi is no surprise.
SQUEAL
SQUEAL


CONGRATU-LATIONS!
WHUP
ポーン!
HEY!
HOP


...!!

SMILE
にこっ♥
にっこり
SMILE
YOU'VE WON THE RIGHT TO PARTICIPATE IN OUR SPECIAL PROGRAM!

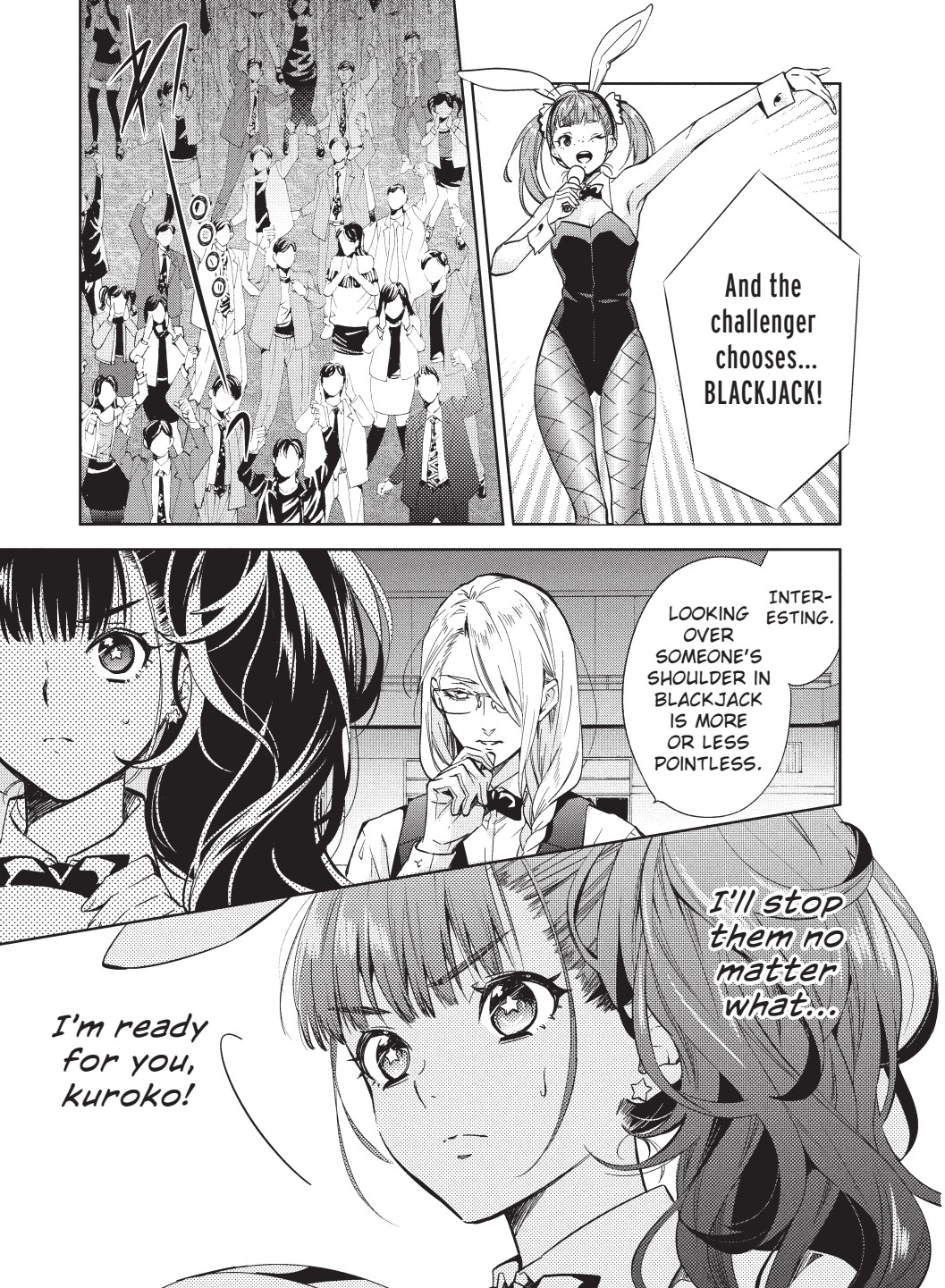
I HAVE?
BEAM

Ladies and gentlemen!!
A first in the history of the Reasonable Doubt Casino!
You are about to witness the second special program of the night!
わあ
WOOO
The big moment is here.

So...
SHOOM

SHOOM
Let the games begin!

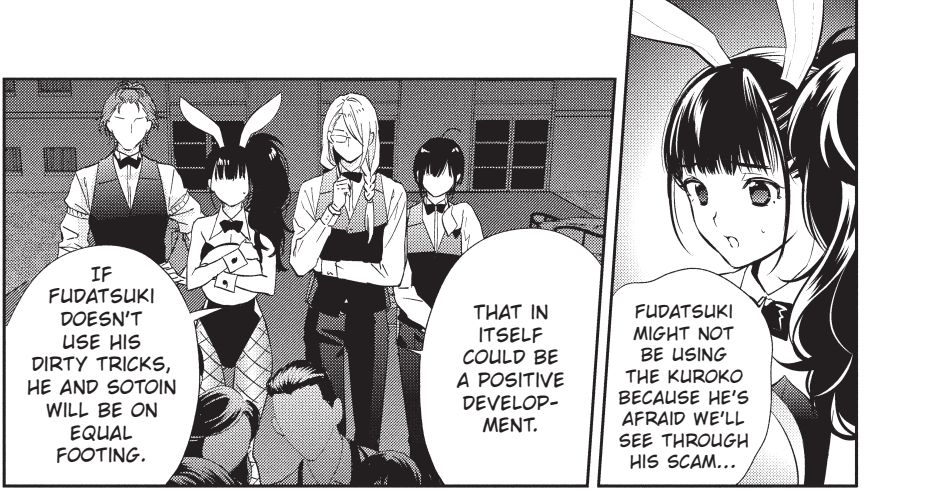
This is my first real mission as a member of the Pretty Boy Detective Club.
We ran through every conceivable scenario in the art room.
...I'll be fine.
Whatever that kuroko does, I'll show him who's boss.
BREATHE
...

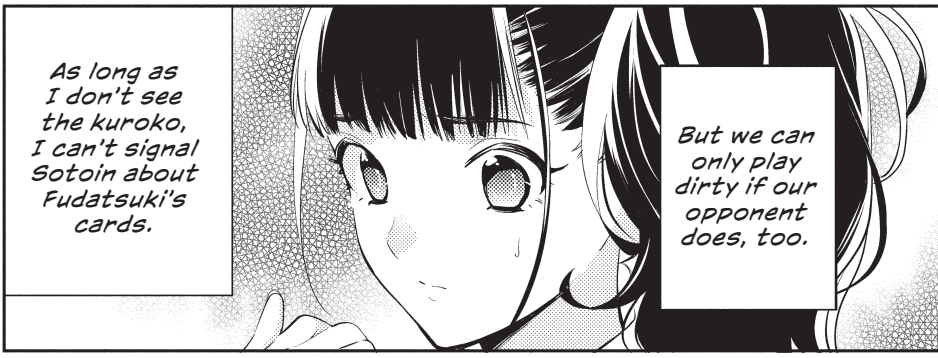

And the challenger chooses... BLACKJACK!
INTER-ESTING.
LOOKING OVER SOMEONE'S SHOULDER IN BLACKJACK IS MORE OR LESS POINTLESS.
I'll stop them no matter what...
I'm ready for you, kuroko!

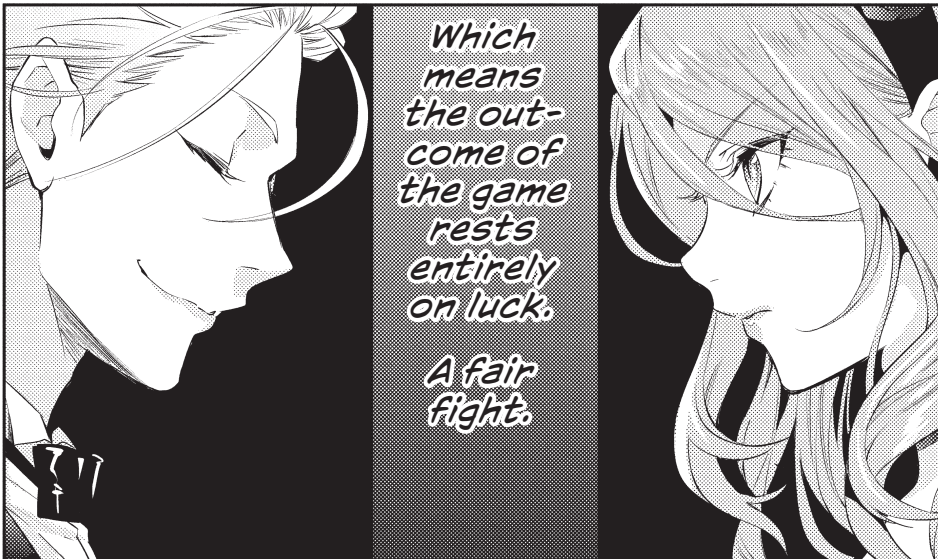
FILE ★ The Swindler, the Vanishing Man, and the Pretty Boys 5

THEY'VE BEEN PLAYING FOR HALF AN HOUR...
HAVE YOU NOTICED ANYTHING YET?
...I THINK THEY MAY HAVE CAUGHT ON!
WHADDA YA MEAN?

THE KUROKO HASN'T APPEARED ON STAGE ...
!!!
...

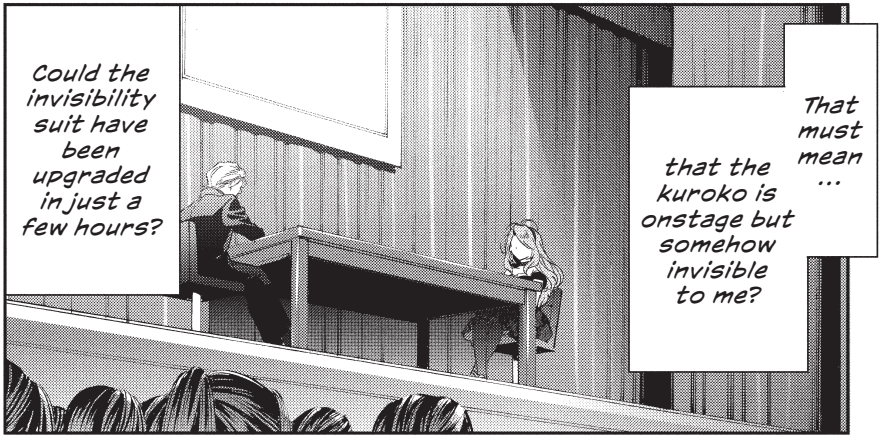

IF FUDATSUKI DOESN'T USE HIS DIRTY TRICKS, HE AND SOTOIN WILL BE ON EQUAL FOOTING.
THAT IN ITSELF COULD BE A POSITIVE DEVELOPMENT.
FUDATSUKI MIGHT NOT BE USING THE KUROKO BECAUSE HE'S AFRAID WE'LL SEE THROUGH HIS SCAM...

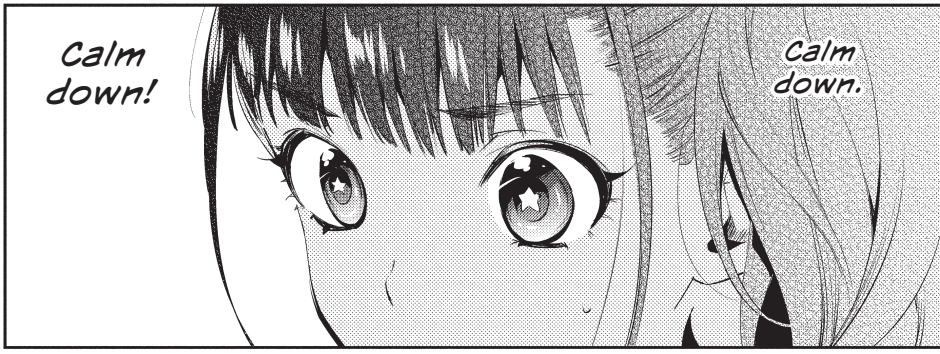

As long as I don't see the kuroko, I can't signal Sotoin about Fudatsuki's cards.
But we can only play dirty if our opponent does, too.


Which means the out-come of the game rests entirely on luck.
A fair fight.

The game unfolds.
An exquisite back-and-forth of chips...
Almost as if they're following a script.
As if it's being directed by an unseen hand...

BUT THE WAY THIS GAME'S GOING WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE WITHOUT A KUROKO.
...
NOD
YOU REALLY SEE NOTHING, MS. DOJIMA?


Could the invisibility suit have been upgraded in just a few hours?
that the kuroko is onstage but somehow invisible to me?
That must mean ...


Calm down!
Calm down.

How is he evading my eyesight?
How...
I DON'T LIKE THE LOOKS OF THIS.
I'M CERTAIN FUDATSUKI'S BIDING HIS TIME, PLANNING TO SNATCH BACK ALL THE CHIPS AT THE LAST SECOND.
...
HA HA HA!
?!!

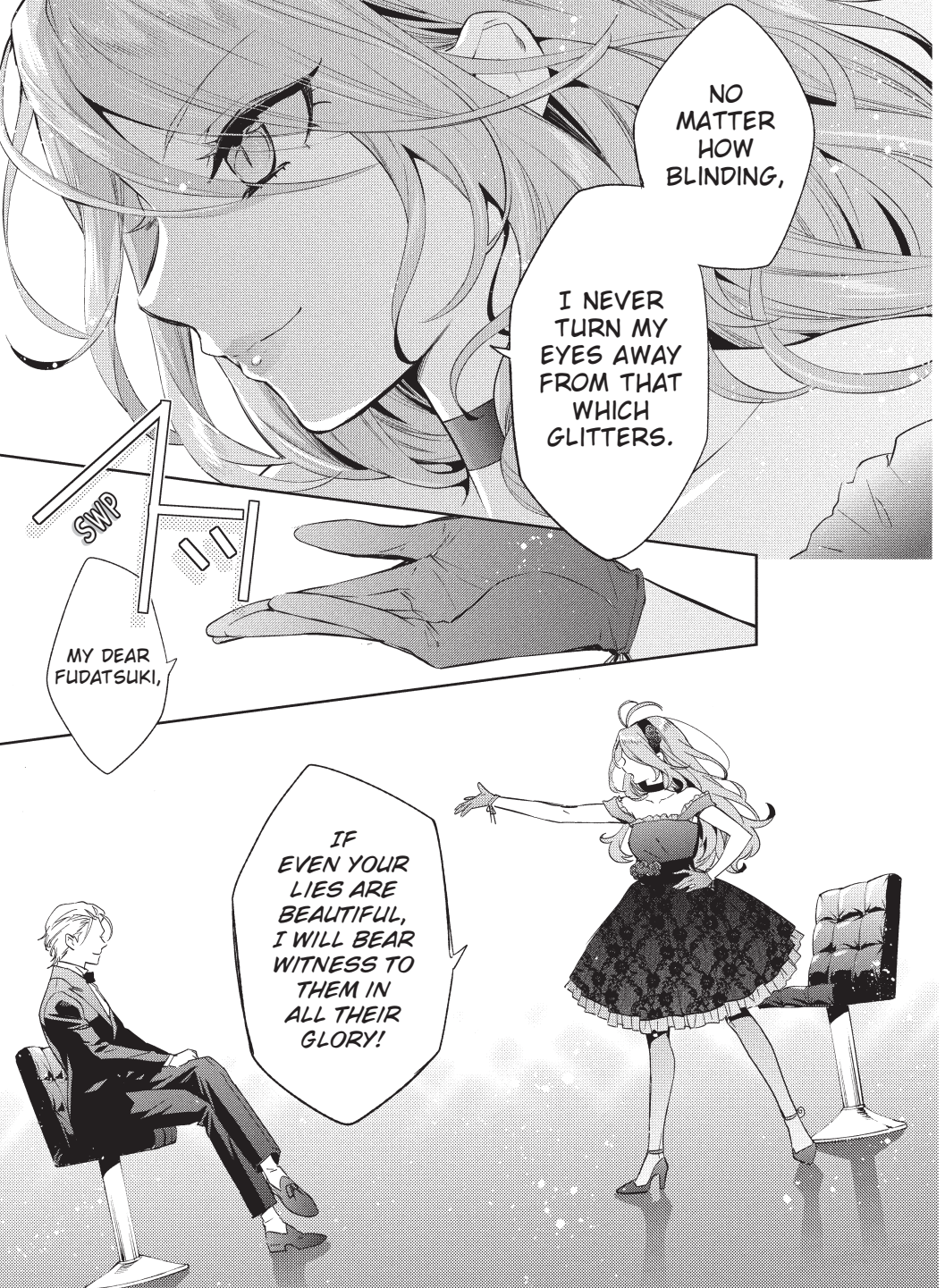
HUGH

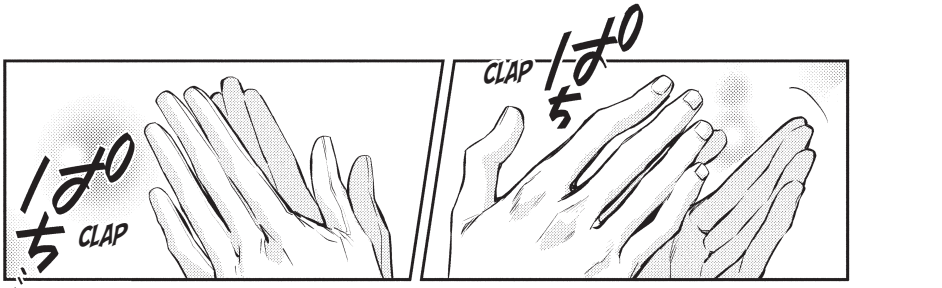
...WHAT DO YOU FIND SO AMUSING?

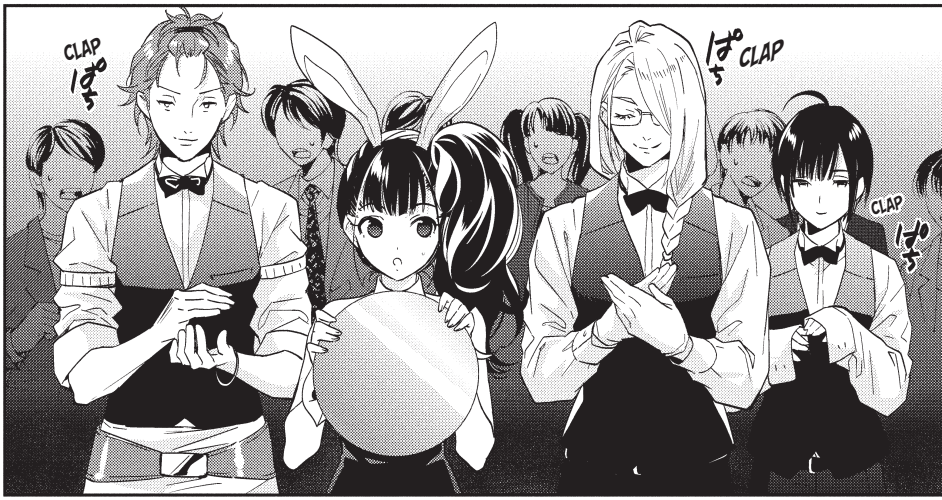
HAAAAA HA HA!!!

AND SINCE I SHINE MOST BEAUTIFULLY IN SUCH MOMENTS, I WAS STUNNED BY MY OWN RADIANCE.
OH, NOTHING.
IT'S JUST THAT I FIND MYSELF IN A TIGHT SPOT!
...
YOU SEEM TO HAVE QUITE THE PASSION FOR BEAUTY.
hehe
SAINT-EXUPÉRY WROTE, "WHAT IS ESSENTIAL IS INVISIBLE TO THE EYE,"
AND THE SAME HOLDS TRUE FOR BEAUTY, I AM SURE.
BUT, YOUNG LADY,
IF YOU LET SUPERFICIAL BEAUTY DISTRACT YOU, YOU'RE SURE TO LOSE YOUR FOOTING.

I'M FAMILIAR WITH SAINT-EXUPÉRY MYSELF,
AND I COULD SEE THAT LOVELY PASSAGE PERFECTLY WELL.
I WILL NEVER LOSE MY FOOTING.
IN FACT, FEET—OR LEGS—HAVE OFTEN SAVED ME.
"WHAT IS ESSENTIAL IS INVISIBLE TO THE EYE" WAS THERE IN BLACK AND WHITE.
AND SEEING THOSE WORDS, I WAS MOST IMPRESSED BY THEM.
NOTHING TRULY BEAUTIFUL IS INVISIBLE,
BE IT ON THE OUTSIDE OR THE INSIDE, THE WRITTEN WORD OR THE AIR ITSELF.
...


NO MATTER HOW BLINDING,
I NEVER TURN MY EYES AWAY FROM THAT WHICH GLITTERS.
SWIP
MY DEAR FUDATSUKI,
IF EVEN YOUR LIES ARE BEAUTIFUL, I WILL BEAR WITNESS TO THEM IN ALL THEIR GLORY!


ぱち
CLAP
CLAP
ぱち


CLAP
ぱち
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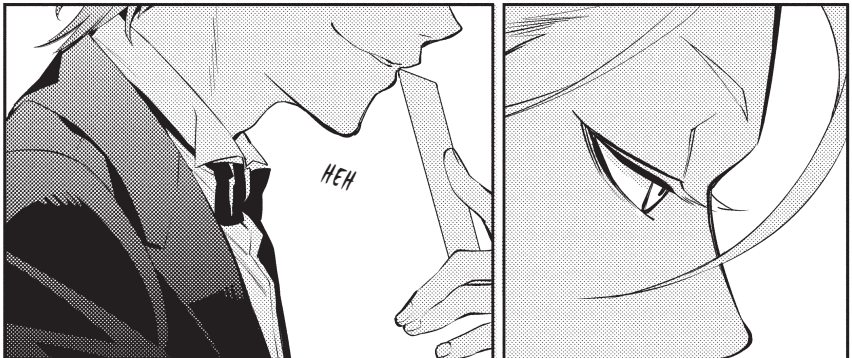
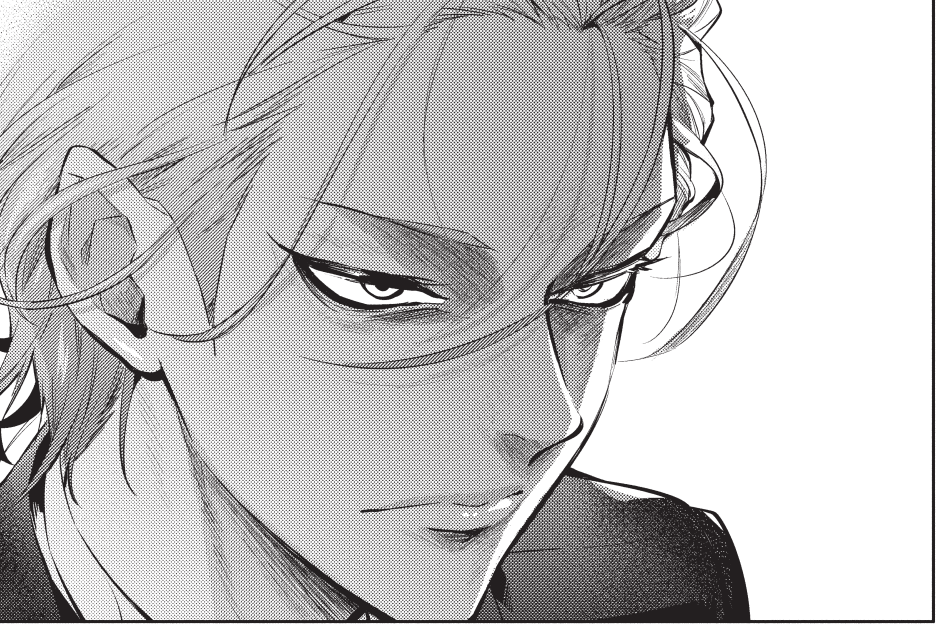
CLAP
CLAP
ぱち

MURMUR
MURMUR
MURMUR


HEH

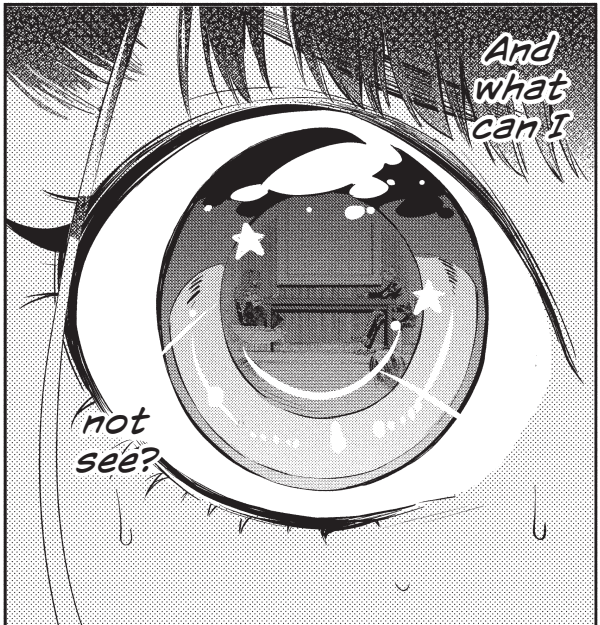


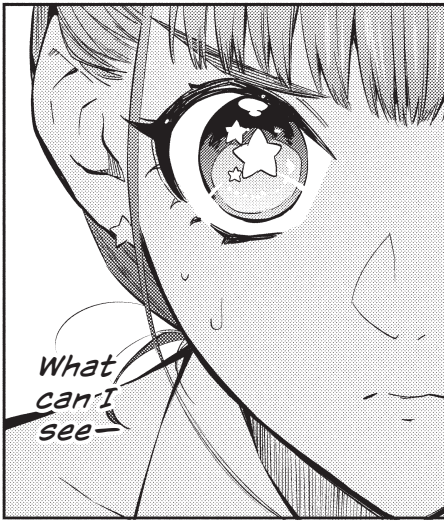
Think.

Think.

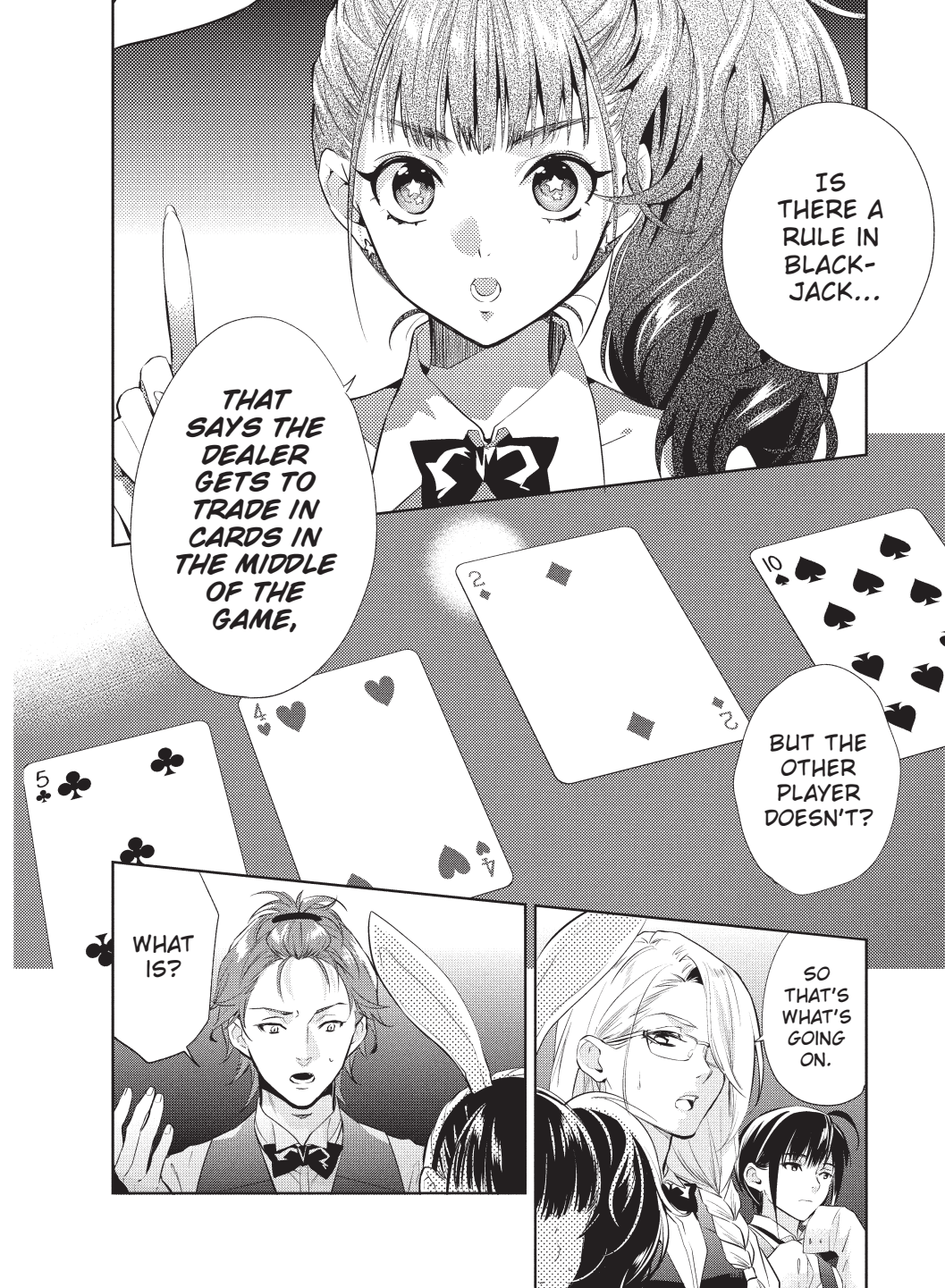
Thinkthinkthinkthink!

Fuda-tsuki's words leave no question.
He's somehow using the invisibility suit to control the flow of the game.
So why can't I see any-thing?
What am I over-looking?

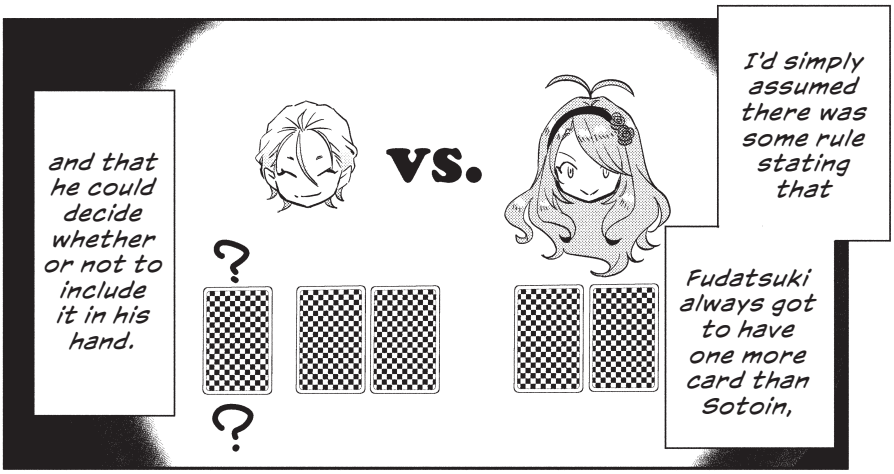

And what can I not see?

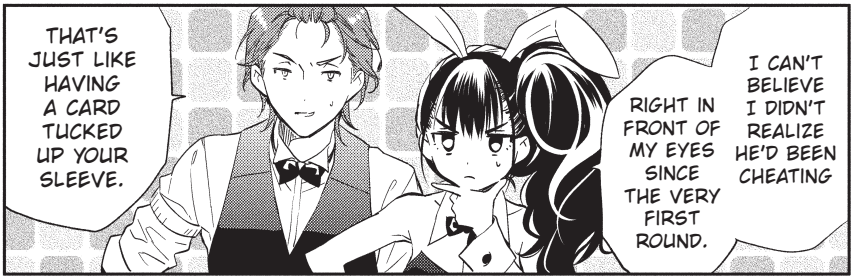

What can I see—

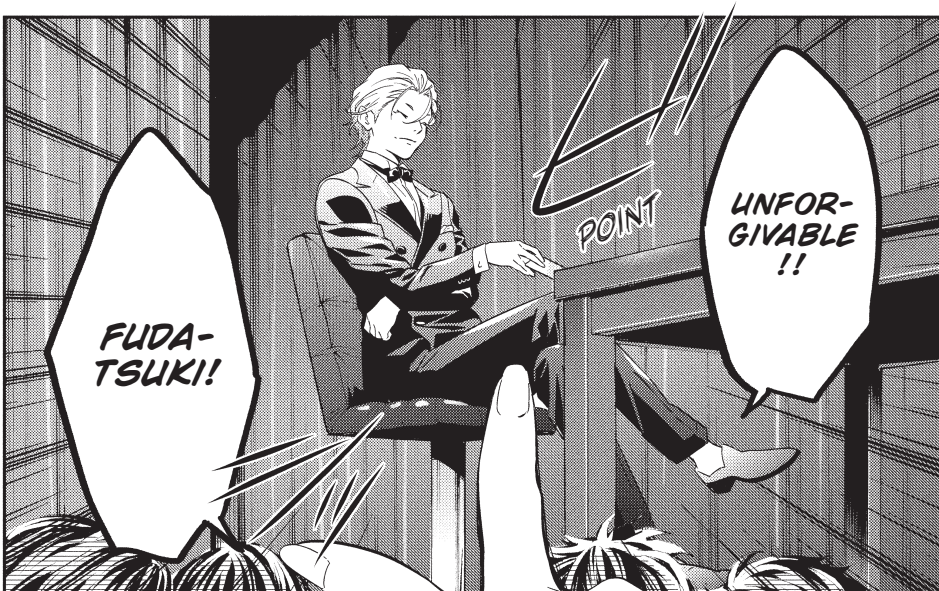
OH!
SAKIGUCHI, THIS MIGHT BE A STUPID QUESTION, BUT...
No, it's not about what I can't see.
It's about what I don't realize I'm seeing.
If Fudatsuki knows about my eyesight,
then he must also be aware that I don't know the rules to these games.
So to get around the too-good eyesight of an ignorant girl...


IS THERE A RULE IN BLACK-JACK...
THAT SAYS THE DEALER GETS TO TRADE IN CARDS IN THE MIDDLE OF THE GAME,
BUT THE OTHER PLAYER DOESN'T?
WHAT IS?
SO THAT'S WHAT'S GOING ON.

Now that I see it, the trick is simple.
The unseen kuroko. The invisibility suit.
They had such a big impact on me, I assumed that was the only way to use the technology.
...
But if this is really the latest cutting-edge technology,
it should be adaptable to more than clothing.
It could be applied just as easily to cards.
Trick cards that are invisible when face down, but visible when face up,
so they only appear when they're flipped over.

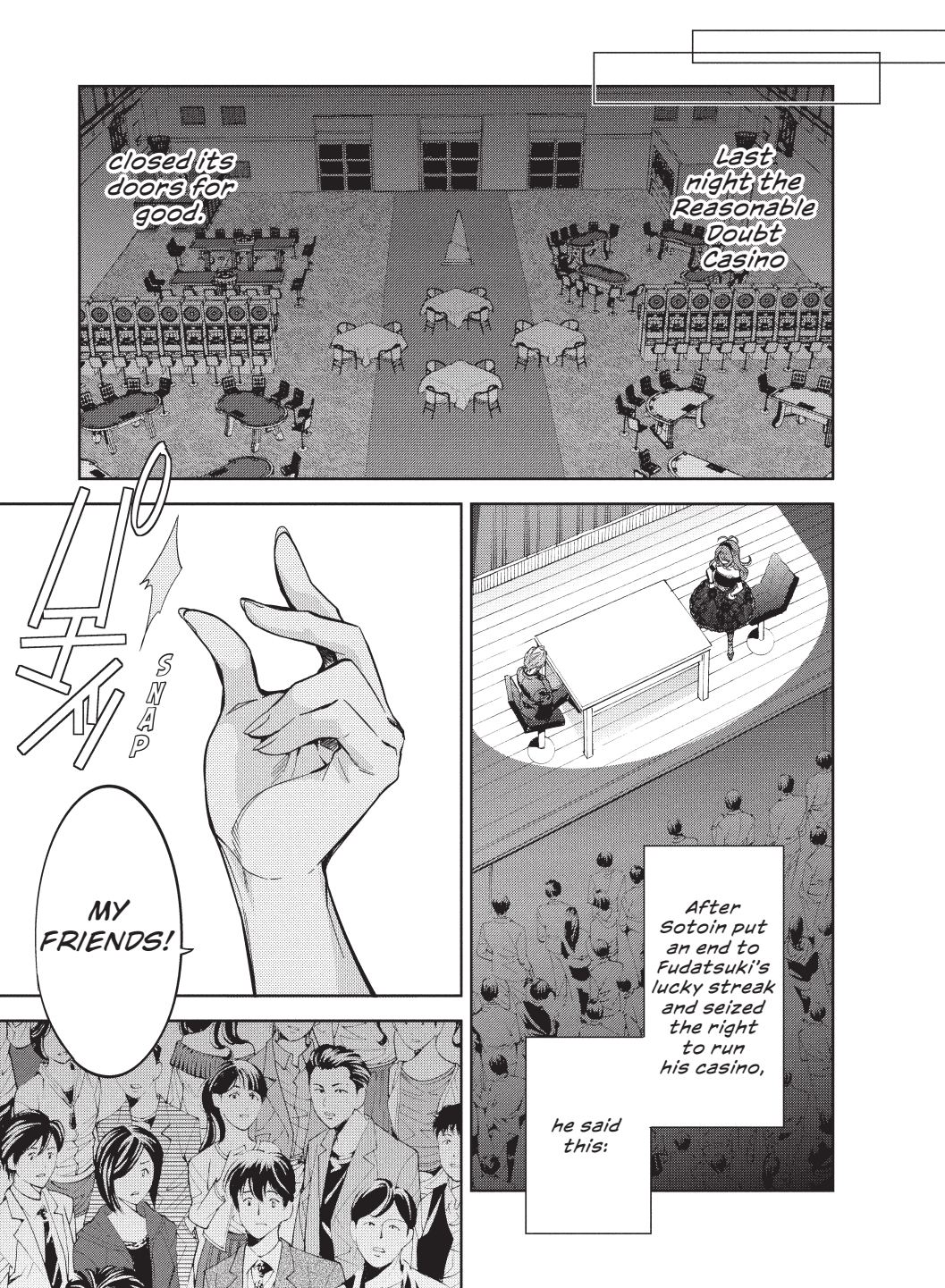

I'd simply assumed there was some rule stating that
Fudatsuki always got to have one more card than Sotoin,
VS.
and that he could decide whether or not to include it in his hand.


I CAN'T BELIEVE I DIDN'T REALIZE HE'D BEEN CHEATING
RIGHT IN FRONT OF MY EYES SINCE THE VERY FIRST ROUND.
THAT'S JUST LIKE HAVING A CARD TUCKED UP YOUR SLEEVE.


UNFOR-GIVABLE!!
POINT
FUDA-TSUKI!

IT'S OUR TURN NOW!!
BAM
SMILE

THE NEXT MORNING
SEE YOU AFTER SCHOOL!
TAP
TAP
HORN OUT...
I hardly slept.


Last night the Reasonable Doubt Casino closed its doors for good.
After Sotoin put an end to Fudatsuki's lucky streak and seized the right to run his casino,
he said this:
SNAP
MY FRIENDS!

THE FUN AND GAMES ARE OVER.
PLEASE EXIT BEAUTIFULLY.

I guess they knew it was coming.

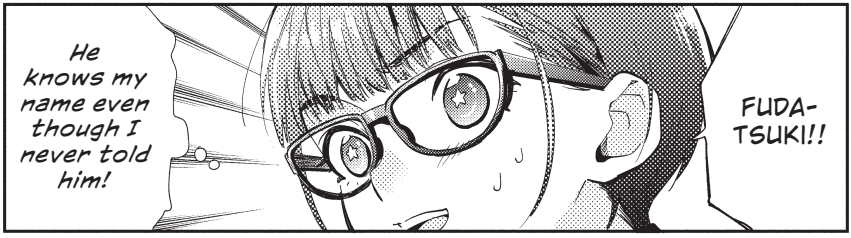
The defeat of the charismatic maestro

meant the end of everything.

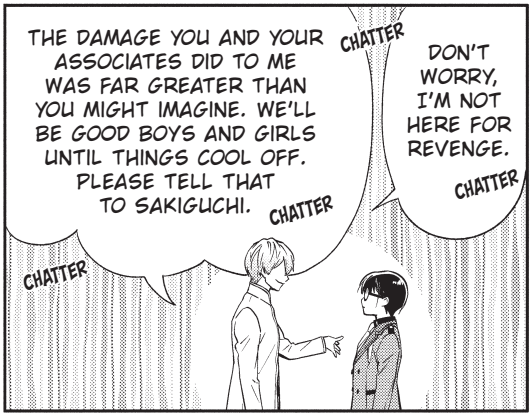
Fudatsuki's economic activities are in no way limited to that casino.
It's not like everything has been resolved.
Except start learning the rules of black-jack, maybe.
But for now, there's nothing more I can do...
And we haven't severed the ties between Kamikazari and the Twenties.
SHF

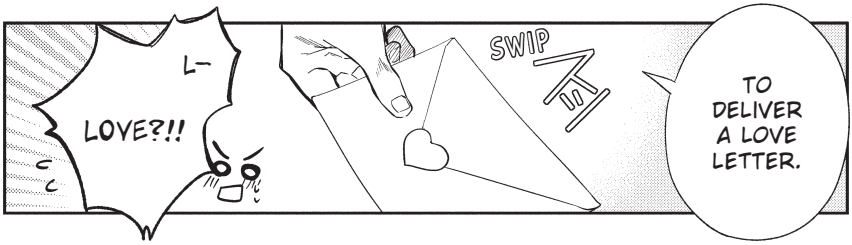
SHOCK
TOP OF THE MORNING, MAYUMI DOJIMA.
T...
SCUTTLE
THAT VOICE...

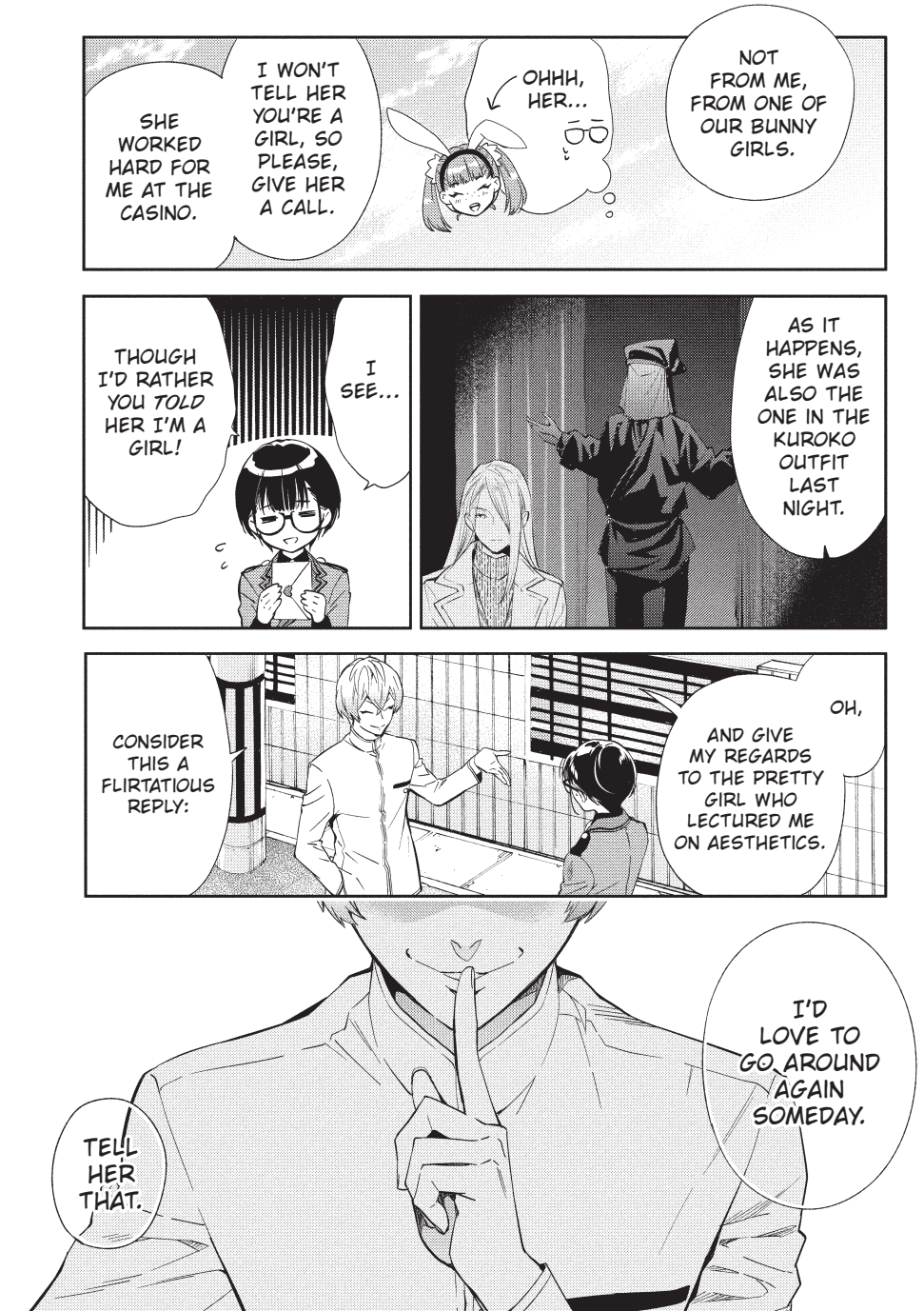
IT'S ME.
HERE.
SEE?


He knows my name even though I never told him!
FUDA-TSUKI!!

O-OKAY...
SO, WHY'RE YOU HERE?


THE DAMAGE YOU AND YOUR ASSOCIATES DID TO ME WAS FAR GREATER THAN YOU MIGHT IMAGINE. WE'LL BE GOOD BOYS AND GIRLS UNTIL THINGS COOL OFF. PLEASE TELL THAT TO SAKIGUCHI.
CHATTER
CHATTER
CHATTER
DON'T WORRY, I'M NOT HERE FOR REVENGE.
CHATTER


LOVE?!!
SWIP
TO DELIVER A LOVE LETTER.


SHE WORKED HARD FOR ME AT THE CASINO.
I WON'T TELL HER YOU'RE A GIRL, SO PLEASE, GIVE HER A CALL.
OHHH, HER...
NOT FROM ME, FROM ONE OF OUR BUNNY GIRLS.
THOUGH I'D RATHER YOU *TOLD* HER I'M A GIRL!
I SEE...
AS IT HAPPENS, SHE WAS ALSO THE ONE IN THE KUROKO OUTFIT LAST NIGHT.
CONSIDER THIS A FLIRTATIOUS REPLY:
OH, AND GIVE MY REGARDS TO THE PRETTY GIRL WHO LECTURED ME ON AESTHETICS.
TELL HER THAT.
I'D LOVE TO GO AROUND AGAIN SOMEDAY.

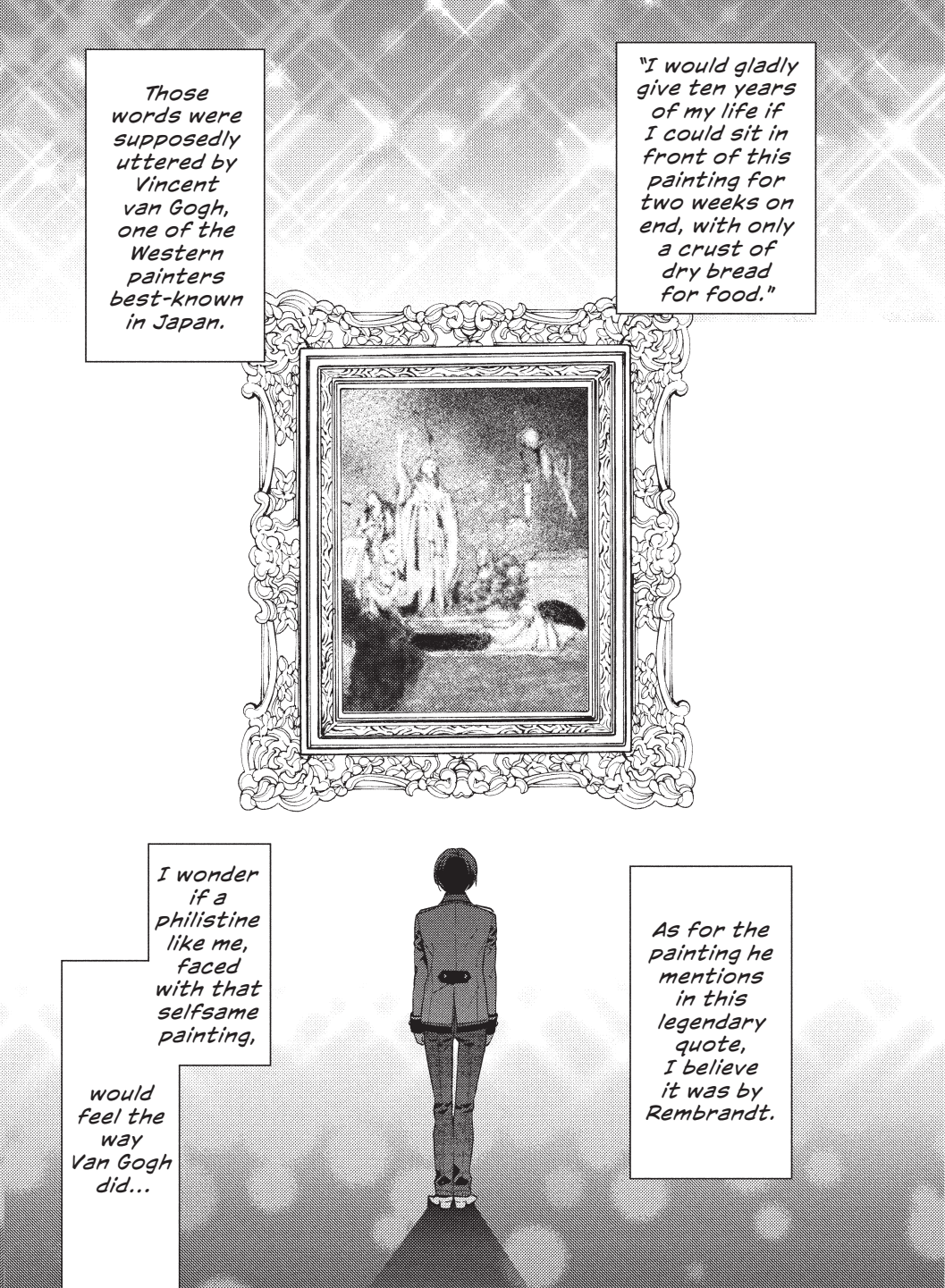
BY THE WAY, I NEVER DID GET YOUR FULL NAME.
DO YOU MIND TELLING ME?
IT'S LAI.
LAI FUDA-TSUKI.
IF YOU EVER HAVE A PROBLEM, CALL ON ME.
DON'T THINK TWICE ABOUT THE DIVISION BETWEEN OUR SCHOOLS.
TURN
I'M ALWAYS READY TO CONSULT, ESPECIALLY ABOUT MONEY.
CONSULT, HUH?

TAKE OFF THOSE COLORED GLASSES,
AND YOU MAY FIND I'M NOT SUCH A BAD GUY.
UNTIL THEN.
HUH?!
HEY, WAIT!
WHOOM
OKAY, OKAY.
HE REALLY IS A ONE-TRICK PONY.
SWIP
Must be the invisibility suit.

HUH?
Guess he managed to end the show without revealing his strongest suit, even to me.
Which means the real showdown between beauty and fraud is yet to come.

PRETTY BOY

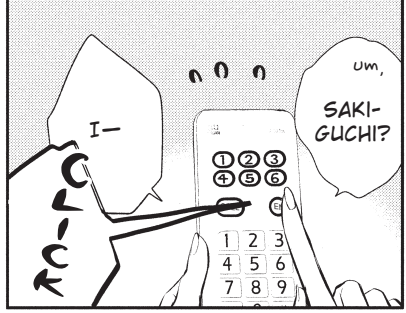
DETECTIVE CLUB!!

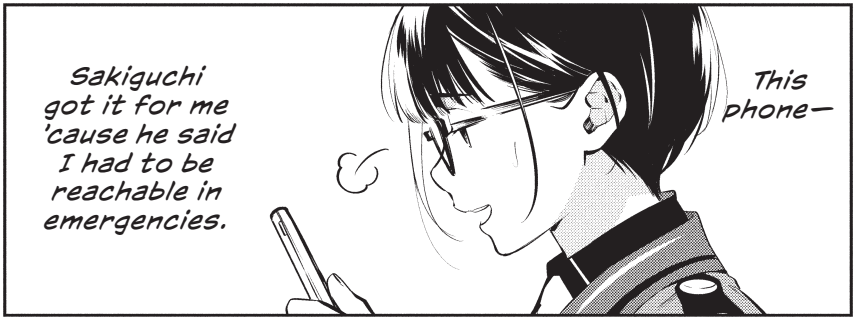

Those words were supposedly uttered by Vincent van Gogh, one of the Western painters best-known in Japan.
"I would gladly give ten years of my life if I could sit in front of this painting for two weeks on end, with only a crust of dry bread for food."
I wonder if a philistine like me, faced with that selfsame painting, would feel the way Van Gogh did...
As for the painting he mentions in this legendary quote, I believe it was by Rembrandt.

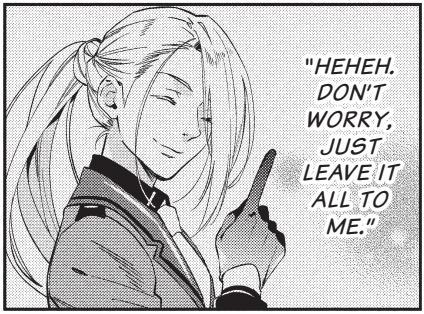
FILE ★ The Pretty Boy in the Attic 1

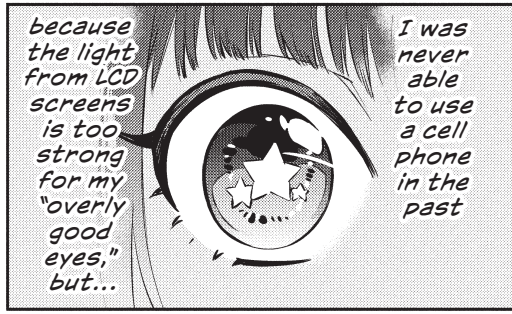
DONG ゴーン
DING リーン
DONG ゴーン
DING リーン
タッ TAP
BEEPIPIPI
Um...
Is this the...?
ピッ ピコピコ
TH... THAT SOUND!
BEEPIPIPI
TAP タッ
あわっ FLUSTER
H-HELLO ...?
Ms. Dojima, the Pretty Boy Detective Club is called to service.
あわっ FLUSTER
Please set all else aside and report to the art room immediately.

Damn, I keep trying to use it like a walkie-talkie...
...


Um,
SAKI-GUCHI?
I—
ピーピー


Sakiguchi got it for me 'cause he said I had to be reachable in emergencies.
This phone—


"HEHEH. DON'T WORRY, JUST LEAVE IT ALL TO ME."


because the light from LCD screens is too strong for my "overly good eyes," but...
I was never able to use a cell phone in the past

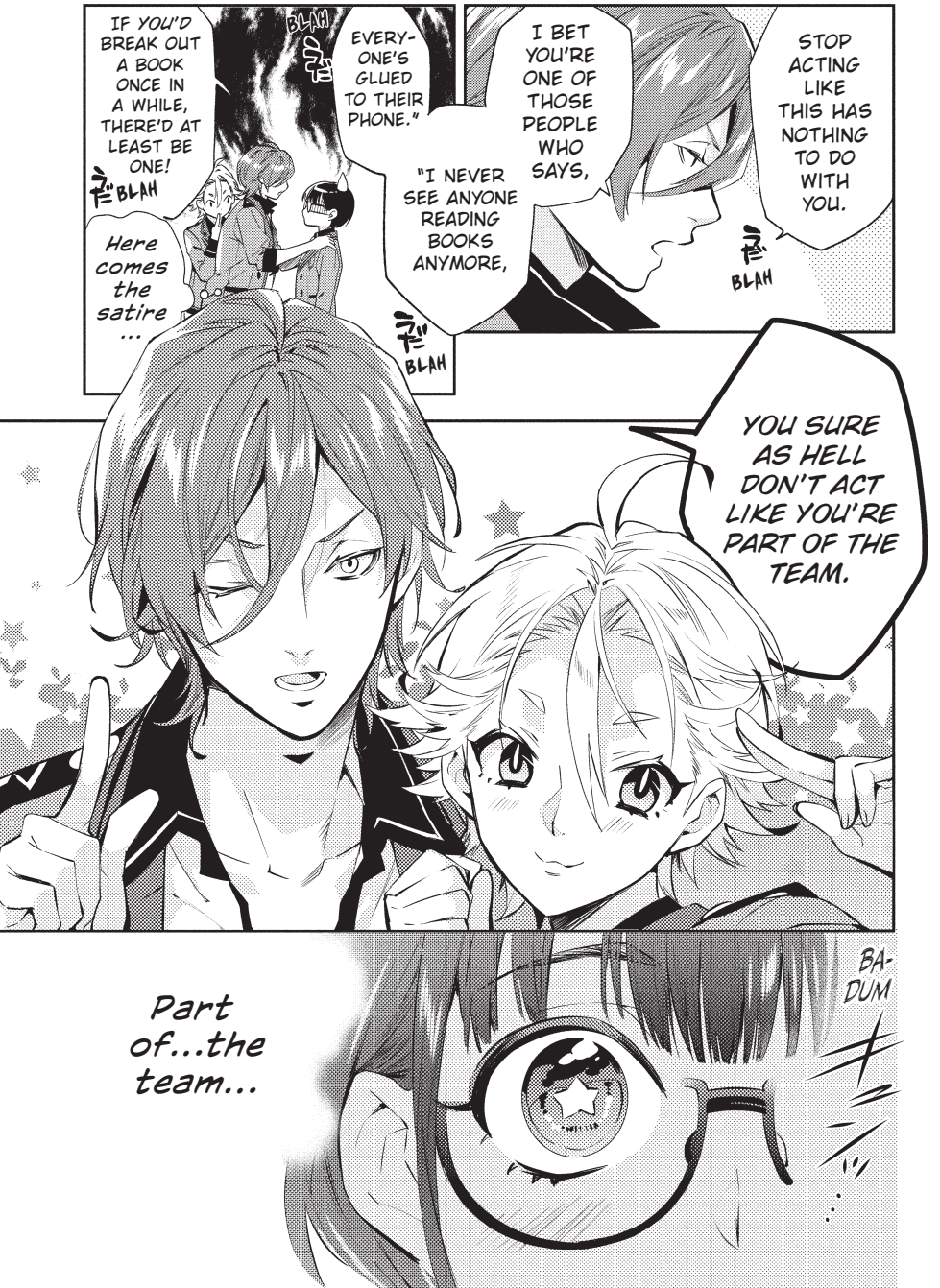
A kiddy phone with no screen, what an idea!!
(By the way, the presets are all assigned to the other Pretty Boys.)
Nice one, Saki-guchi. Got me right in my blind spot.
CALL
END
SIGNAL
BATTERY
OFF
ON
POWER

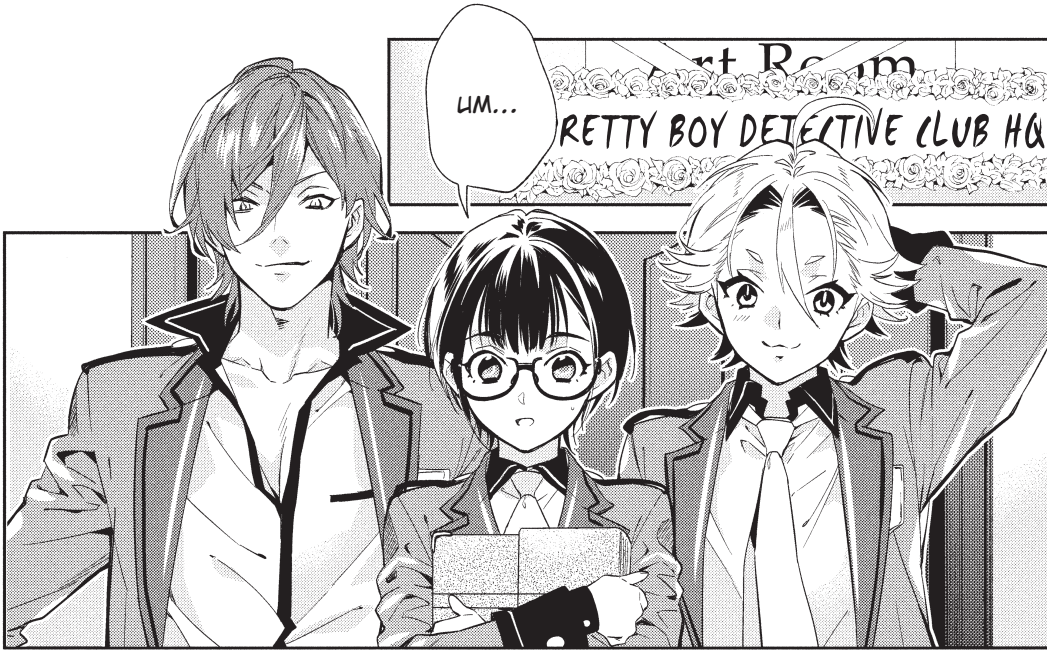
I'm going home !!!
But a unilateral summons like that, forget it...
After so many years of discommunication, I'm happy to have any phone at all...
...
CLACK
CLICK
CLACK
CLICK
CLACK
CLICK
CLACK
CLICK
CLACK
CLACK
A call like that spells nothing but trouble.
Better hurry before they catch on.
SHF

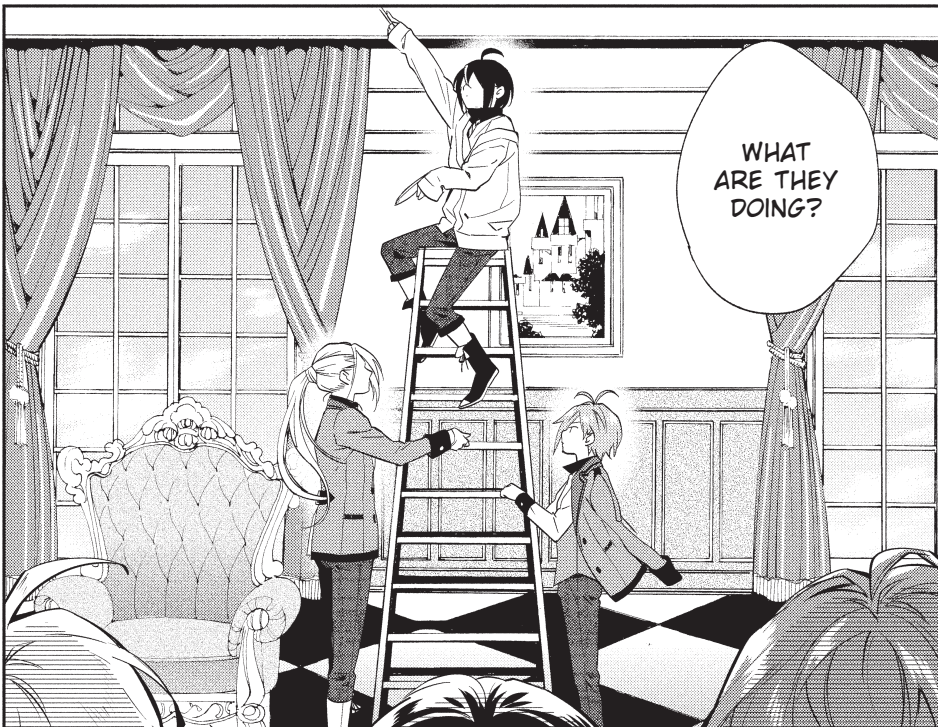
BAM
YOU CALL YOURSELF MAYUMI THE SEER, BUT YOU LOOK THE OTHER WAY WHEN THE PRESIDENT CALLS A MEETING?
GRRR
QUIT POPPING UP OUT OF NOWHERE WITH THAT SCARY FACE OF YOURS, DELINQUENT!
HEH...
GET YER ASS TO THE ART ROOM. NOW.
JAB

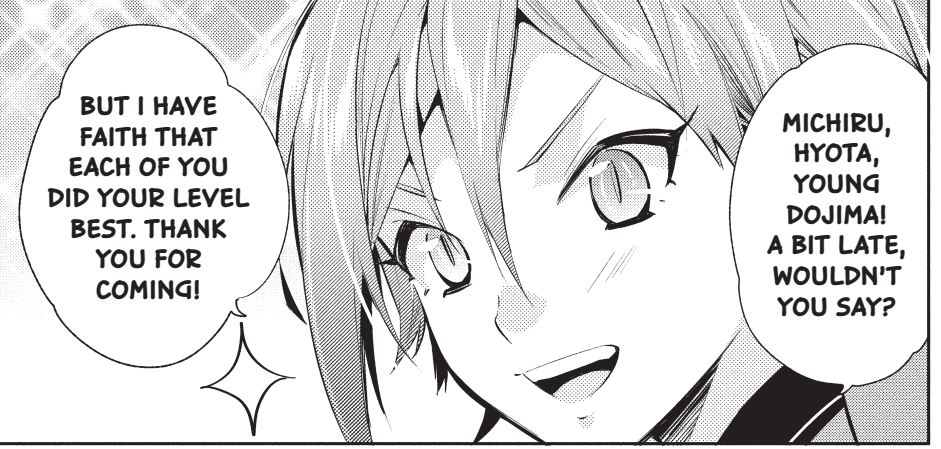
DON'T BE BITTER, MICHIRU THE EPICURE!!
YOU LITTLE SHIT!
YOU'RE PRETTY SPRIGHTLY FOR SUCH A GLOOMY KID!!
DASH
CALL ME GLOOMY ALL YOU WANT–
I'M FREE!!
SPRING
WHY DON'T YOU SKULK BACK INSIDE AND LOOK AT YOUR PERFECT FACE IN THE MIRROR!
COME ON, HURRY
CRASH
GWAH?!!
ON YOUR MARK...

A HA HA!
NICE TRY, DOJI.
YOU MAY HAVE GOOD EYES,
BUT YOU'LL NEVER ESCAPE A BOY
DAMMIT, DOJIMA, STOP MAKING THIS SO HARD. WE'VE GOTTA HURRY.
WHO'S FASTER THAN THE SPEED OF LIGHT ♡
IF IT'S SO URGENT, FEEL FREE TO GET STARTED WITHOUT ME.
CHTTK ﾁｬｷ…


STOP ACTING LIKE THIS HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH YOU.
BLAH
I BET YOU'RE ONE OF THOSE PEOPLE WHO SAYS,
"I NEVER SEE ANYONE READING BOOKS ANYMORE,
BLAH
EVERY-ONE'S GLUED TO THEIR PHONE."
BLAH
IF YOU'D BREAK OUT A BOOK ONCE IN A WHILE, THERE'D AT LEAST BE ONE!
BLAH
Here comes the satire ...
YOU SURE AS HELL DON'T ACT LIKE YOU'RE PART OF THE TEAM.
Part of...the team...
BA-DUM


UM...
RETTY BOY DETECTIVE CLUB HQ


WHAT ARE THEY DOING?


MICHIRU, HYOTA, YOUNG DOJIMA! A BIT LATE, WOULDN'T YOU SAY?
BUT I HAVE FAITH THAT EACH OF YOU DID YOUR LEVEL BEST. THANK YOU FOR COMING!

SO, FINALLY GOT STARTED ON THAT CEILING RE-DECORATION PROJECT?
ANYTHING WE CAN DO TO HELP?

That's right, the child genius did most of these renovations himself...

WE COULD USE ONE MORE PERSON HOLDING THE LADDER.
PLUS WE NEED SOMEONE TO CATCH HIM ON THE OFF CHANCE HE FALLS.
AND SOSAKU NEEDS AN ASSISTANT TO PASS SUPPLIES UP TO HIM.
POSI-TIONS, PLEASE.
I WASN'T ASKING YOU, NAGAHIRO. I WAS ASKING THE PRESIDENT.

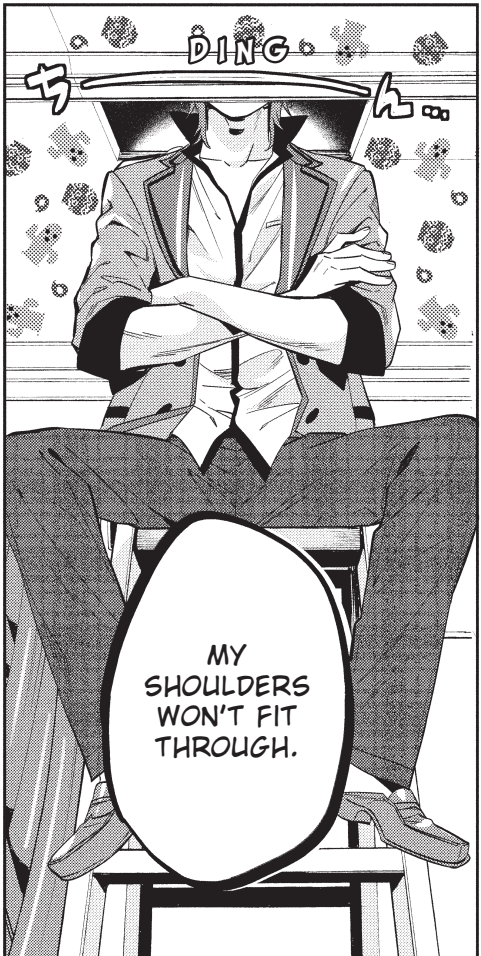
SWSH
SWSH
UM, MR. PRESIDENT?
IS THIS WHY WE WERE SUMMONED HERE SO URGENTLY?
THAT IS CORRECT!
OUR TASK TODAY AS MEMBERS OF THE PRETTY BOY DETECTIVE CLUB
IS TO COMPLETE THE ART ROOM AT LONG LAST!

WHEW...
So we're not flying halfway across the country in a helicopter,
or sneaking into a rival school in the middle of the night.
Little did I know that this little project,
the seemingly innocent product of our president's whims,
would lead us back to a kidnapping
which had taken place at Yubiwa Academy seven years earlier!
KATHUNK

...
Kathunk ?!
OOH, HE BROKE IT! SOSAKU WRECKED THE ART ROOM!
DO YOU THINK THAT PANEL WAS ALREADY DAMAGED?
IF SO, WE'LL NEED TO FIX IT, IN WHICH CASE WE PROBABLY WON'T BE ABLE TO FINISH TODAY...
...THIS HOLE—

WILD ...
SO, THE ART ROOM HAS A LOFT?
HA HA HA! I'VE ALWAYS HOPED THERE MIGHT BE A DOOR TO A PARALLEL WORLD AROUND HERE. AND TO THINK!
IT WAS RIGHT OVER OUR HEADS! RIGHT UNDER OUR NOSES!
THERE'S GOTTA BE TREASURE UP THERE.
T. R. E. A. S. U. R. E! ♡
LOOKS VERY MUCH LIKE THE ENTRANCE TO A SECRET PASSAGE.
DOJI-MA.
WHAT DO YOU THINK?
ME?

I MEAN, IT COULD BE LITTERED WITH DEAD BODIES, FOR ALL I KNOW.


DING
ちーん…
MY SHOULDERS WON'T FIT THROUGH.

ぞわぁ…
SHUDDER
QUIT TRYING TO FREAK US OUT.

ANYWAY, A PICTURE IS WORTH A THOUSAND WORDS.
LET'S GET UP THERE AND SEE WHAT'S WHAT.

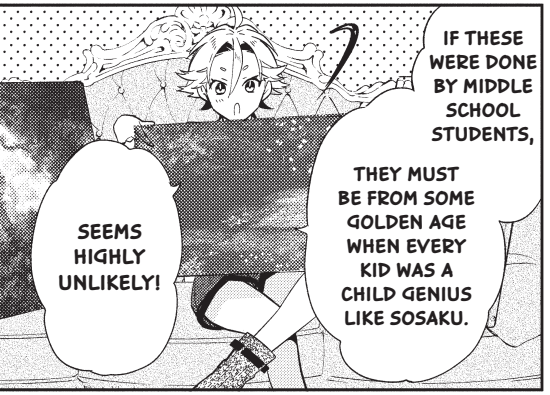
IF ONLY ONE OF US WERE SMALL ENOUGH TO FIT AND COULD SEE IN THE DARK...
oh well, WHATEVER CAN WE DO? I'M SORRY TO SAY I DON'T HAVE A FLASH-LIGHT.
AND IT'S PITCH BLACK. I CAN'T SEE A THING.
QUITE THE SURREAL IMAGE...
LIKE YOU?
Dammit!! I knew this would happen!!
NOW.
POINT
ビッ!
UP.
back off, okay?

SWIP
What are these?
Dozens of... paintings?!

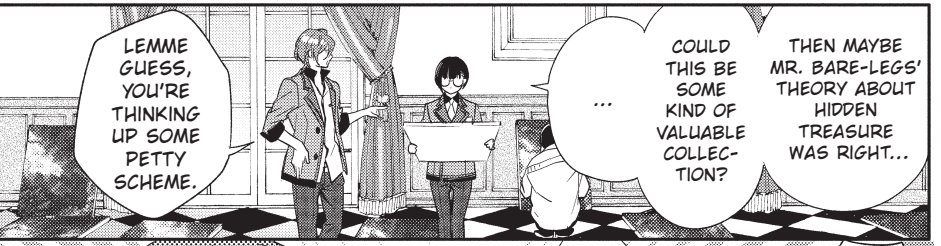
FILE ★ The Pretty Boy in the Attic 2

Thirty-three paintings ...

I WONDER IF THE STUDENTS MADE THEM, BACK WHEN THIS WAS AN ART CLASS-ROOM...
NO, THEY'RE WAY TOO GOOD FOR THAT.

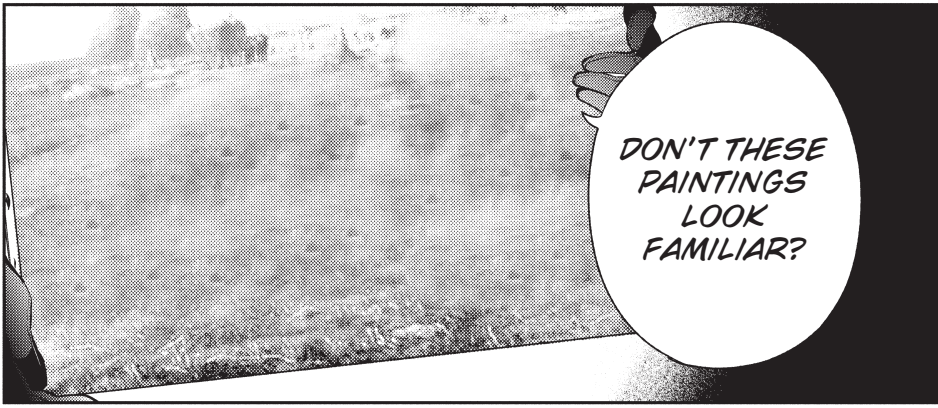

IF THESE WERE DONE BY MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS,
THEY MUST BE FROM SOME GOLDEN AGE WHEN EVERY KID WAS A CHILD GENIUS LIKE SOSAKU.
SEEMS HIGHLY UNLIKELY!

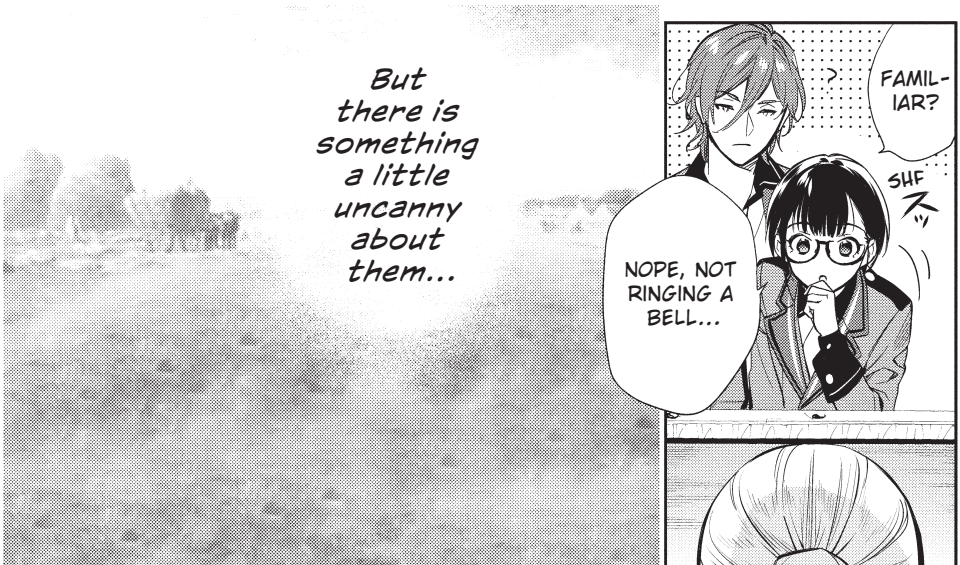
WHOEVER PAINTED THESE HAD CON-SIDERABLE SKILL...

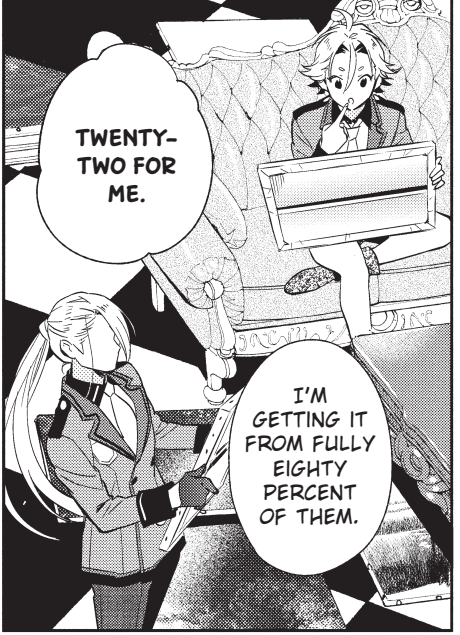

LEMME GUESS, YOU'RE THINKING UP SOME PETTY SCHEME.
...
COULD THIS BE SOME KIND OF VALUABLE COLLEC-TION?
THEN MAYBE MR. BARE-LEGS' THEORY ABOUT HIDDEN TREASURE WAS RIGHT...

I KNEW IT.
I'D NEVER THINK SOME-THING LIKE THAT!!
I'M NOT THINKING THAT WHEN WE SPLIT THE SPOILS, I SHOULD GET 50%.
WHA... NO!
JOLT
ばっ

??
MORE IMPORTANTLY...
EVEN IF THIS IS A "TREASURE," THE HORRIBLE STORAGE CONDITIONS MUST HAVE CUT THE VALUE IN HALF.


DON'T THESE PAINTINGS LOOK FAMILIAR?


But there is something a little uncanny about them...
?
FAMILIAR?
SHF
NOPE, NOT RINGING A BELL...


TWENTY-TWO FOR ME.
I'M GETTING IT FROM FULLY EIGHTY PERCENT OF THEM.

I'D SAY ABOUT HALF OF THEM FEEL KIND OF UNNATURAL ...
HMM ...

I'D SAY A THIRD. TEN, MAYBE.
HALF?

...
I SIMPLY FEEL THAT EACH AND EVERY ONE IS TRULY BEAUTIFUL!
I DON'T SENSE ANYTHING PARTICULARLY ODD ABOUT THEM.
Is this boy really Manabu the "Aesthete"?

hmm...
IT'S MORE LIKE DÉJÀ VU THAN FAMILIARITY ...

NOT SO MUCH A SENSE THAT SOMETHING IS WRONG,

AS THAT SOMETHING IS MISSING.

DÉJÀ VU? MISSING?

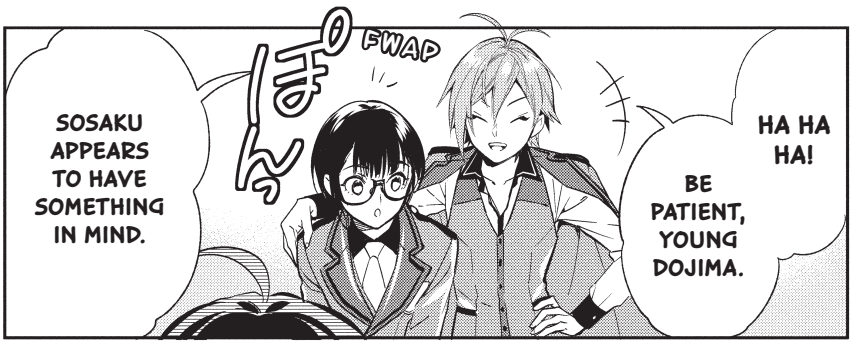
KASHAK

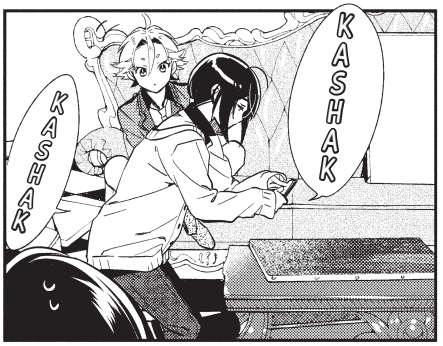
Y-YUBIWA?

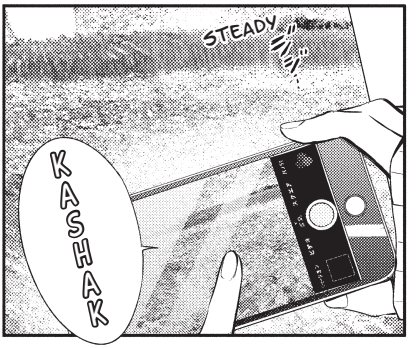
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

what's with the photo session?

KASHAK


SOSAKU APPEARS TO HAVE SOMETHING IN MIND.
ぽん
FWAP
HA HA HA!
BE PATIENT, YOUNG DOJIMA.

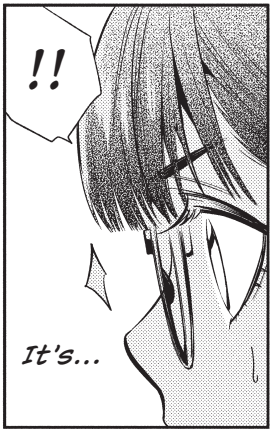

KASHAK
KASHAK


STEADY...
KASHAK

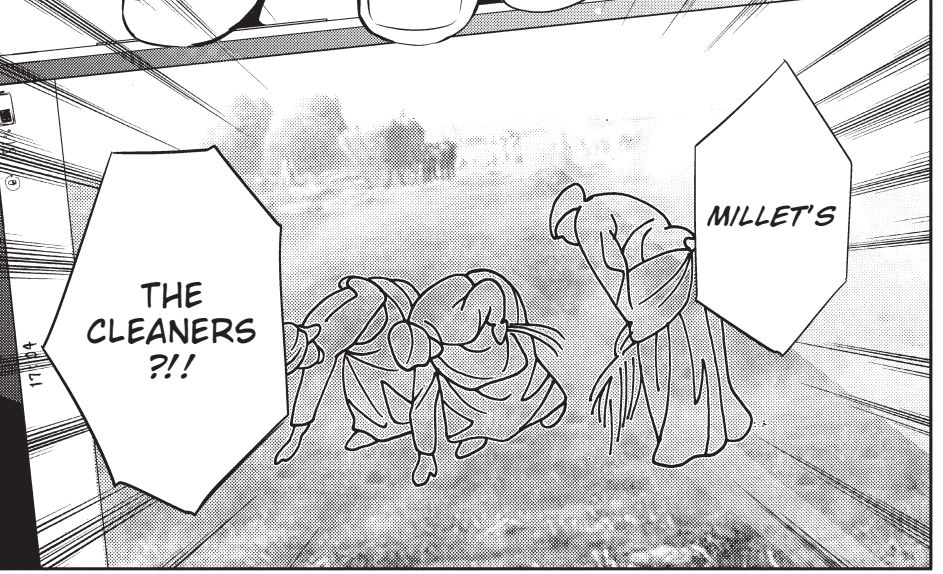
POP
きゃぽっ
HUH?

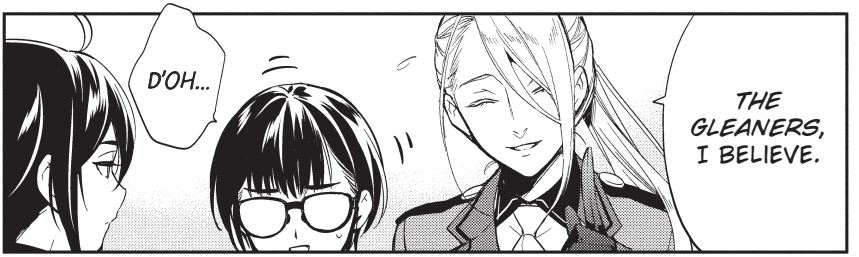
uhhh...
Is he going to do an image search online?
not that I know how that works...

STOP!
He's drawing on the screen?!
きゅっ SQWEE
SHOCK
WHAAA?!
SQWEE きゅっ...

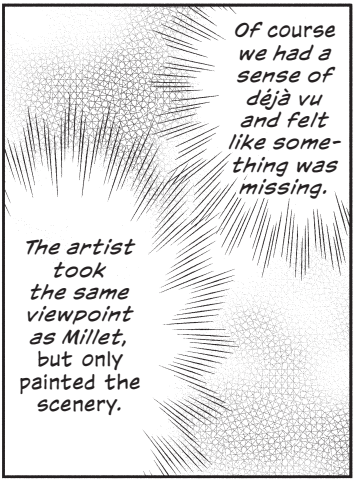


くるっ SWIP
SHFFF


MILLET'S
THE CLEANERS ?!!

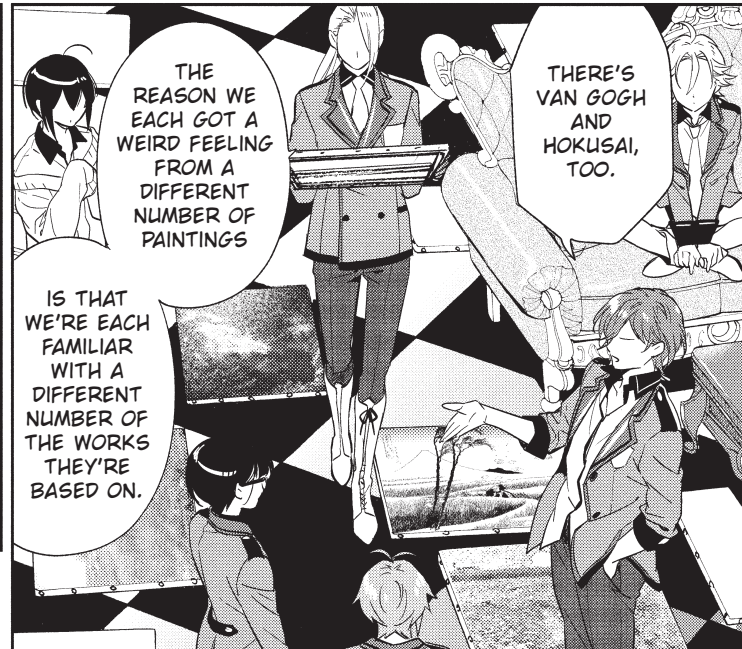

THE GLEANERS, I BELIEVE.
D'OH...

What's missing is the people!

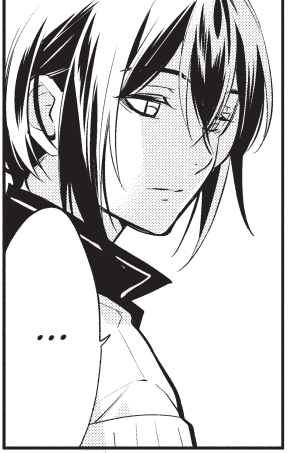

Of course we had a sense of déjà vu and felt like something was missing.
The artist took the same viewpoint as Millet, but only painted the scenery.

THIS ONE IS *OPHELIA* BY MILLAIS, BUT JUST THE BACK-GROUND.
THAT ONE IS *THE SWING* BY FRAGONARD, BUT WITH-OUT THE PEOPLE.
AND THIS IS RENOIR'S *DANCE AT LE MOULIN DE LA GALETTE.*
THIS IS MANET'S *THE LUNCHEON ON THE GRASS.*

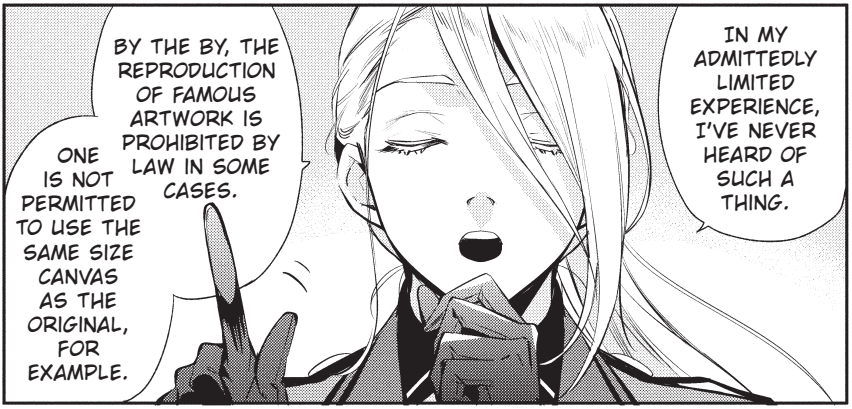
YESSS! I BEAT THE IGNORANT DELIN-QUENT!
DOJIMA, YOUR BRAIN FILTER IS SWITCHED OFF AGAIN.

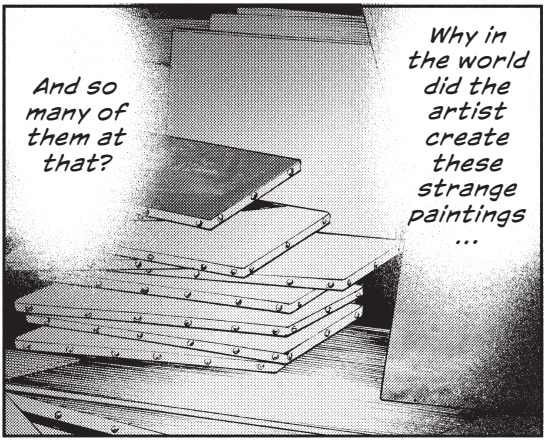

THE REASON WE EACH GOT A WEIRD FEELING FROM A DIFFERENT NUMBER OF PAINTINGS
IS THAT WE'RE EACH FAMILIAR WITH A DIFFERENT NUMBER OF THE WORKS THEY'RE BASED ON.
THERE'S VAN GOGH AND HOKUSAI, TOO.

I JUST LIKE CHECKING OUT THE LADIES.
CLASSIC PAINTINGS ARE, LIKE, ALL NUDES.
GET ME? ♡
YEAH, FORGET THE PRAISE!
I'D HOLD OFF ON THE PRAISE IF I WERE YOU.
YOU'RE AS CLEVER AS YOU ARE BEAUTIFUL, IT SEEMS!
I'M SURPRISED YOU RECOGNIZED TWO-THIRDS OF THEM, MR. BARE-LEGS.
...
I bet the child genius recognized all 33 paintings from the start.
OH, ME?
YOU SEE, MY MIND IS UNTRAINED, THOUGH MY AESTHETIC EYE IS NOT.
I swear, this kid...


...

IS THIS A STANDARD EXERCISE FOR PAINTERS?
REMOVING THE PEOPLE FROM CLASSIC SCENES?


IN MY ADMITTEDLY LIMITED EXPERIENCE, I'VE NEVER HEARD OF SUCH A THING.
BY THE BY, THE REPRODUCTION OF FAMOUS ARTWORK IS PROHIBITED BY LAW IN SOME CASES.
ONE IS NOT PERMITTED TO USE THE SAME SIZE CANVAS AS THE ORIGINAL, FOR EXAMPLE.


Why in the world did the artist create these strange paintings ...
And so many of them at that?

Because you wouldn't be able to tell them apart?
These paintings are so good, I doubt they were done for practice ...
hmm...

AHA!
IT'S ALMOST AS IF THE PEOPLE IMPRISONED IN THE LOCKED ROOMS OF THESE CANVASES
HAVE ALL MADE A DRAMATIC ESCAPE!
A DRAMATIC ESCAPE,
YOU SAY?
SHOULD WE ASSUME THERE WAS ONLY ONE PAINTER?
I SURE AS HELL HOPE THERE'S ONLY ONE OF THESE WEIRDOS OUT THERE!

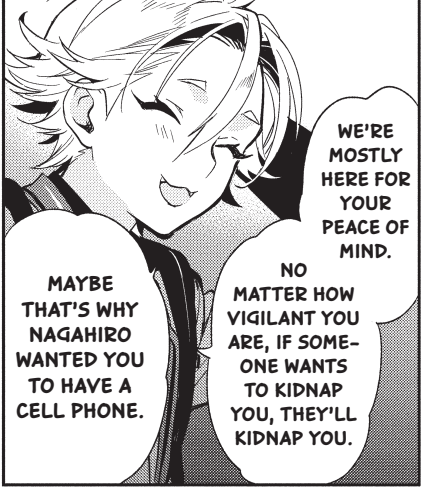
HOW DELIGHTFUL! AN ENDLESS FONT OF MYSTERIES!
WHY DID THEY HIDE THEM IN THE CRAWL SPACE?
WHY DID THE ARTIST MAKE THESE PAINTINGS?
HOW WILL WE EVER FIND THE ARTIST?
THESE PAINTINGS HAVE BEEN HIDDEN IN THE CRAWL SPACE FOR AT LEAST THREE YEARS.
BUT SOTOIN.
HUH...?
THEN LET US TURN OUR ATTENTION TO A DIFFERENT MYSTERY.
THE PRETTY BOY DETECTIVE CLUB MUST FACE THE QUESTION OF WHY THE ARTIST DIDN'T PAINT *THAT* PICTURE.
"THAT" PICTURE...?

A PAINTING SO FAMOUS EVEN AN UNEDUCATED FELLOW LIKE ME KNOWS IT:

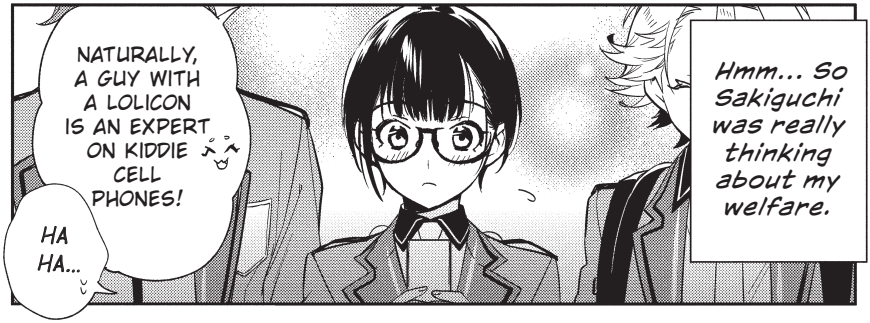
LEONARDO DA VINCI'S MONA LISA!

リーン DING
ゴーン DONG
リーン DING
ゴーン DONG
THERE'S THE EVENING BELL!
WELL, THAT'S ENOUGH FOR TODAY.
Huh? He's letting us go?
BAM
PLEASE PONDER THE PROBLEM FOR HOME-WORK!
I'D LIKE YOU EACH TO PREPARE A THEORY REGARDING THE PAINTINGS BY TOMORROW!
HOME... WORK?

Sakiguchi ...
SHUFF
SHUFF
I'm grateful for your concern, but...
This feels more like an arrest than a rest for my overanxious mind!!!
GLOOM
SMILE
SMILE
Why are you guys
always up in my space?


WE'RE MOSTLY HERE FOR YOUR PEACE OF MIND.
NO MATTER HOW VIGILANT YOU ARE, IF SOMEONE WANTS TO KIDNAP YOU, THEY'LL KIDNAP YOU.
MAYBE THAT'S WHY NAGAHIRO WANTED YOU TO HAVE A CELL PHONE.

DON'T FORGET WHAT HAPPENED LAST TIME.
THOUGH THINGS'RE PROBABLY SO SCREWED UP OVER AT KAMIKAZARI
THAT THEY DON'T HAVE TIME TO MESS WITH US.

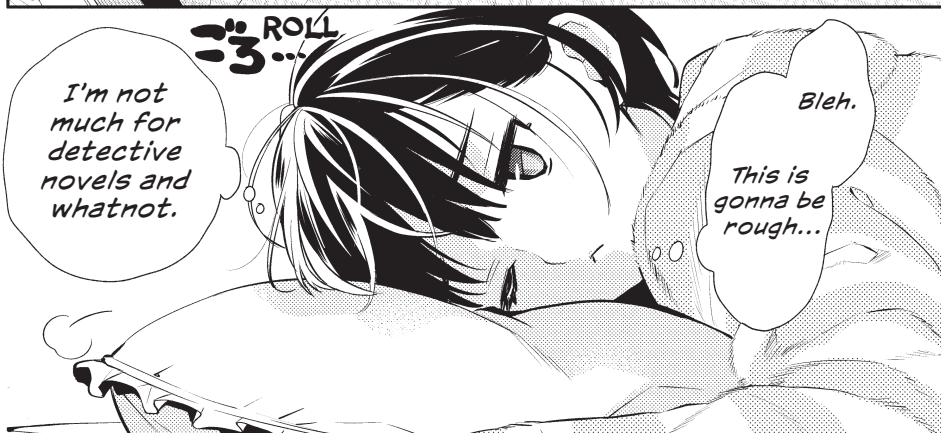

Hmm... So Sakiguchi was really thinking about my welfare.
NATURALLY, A GUY WITH A LOLICON IS AN EXPERT ON KIDDIE CELL PHONES!
HA HA...

BUT SPEAKING OF KIDNAPPING...
SOTOIN SAID IT WAS LIKE THE PEOPLE IMPRISONED IN THOSE CANVASES MADE A DRAMATIC ESCAPE...
HUH?
BUT ISN'T IT MORE LIKE THEY WERE KIDNAPPED?
YEAH, I SEE YOUR POINT.

IT'S NOT SO MUCH THAT THEY WERE SHUT UP IN THOSE PICTURES AND ESCAPED—
MORE LIKE THE PICTURES WERE PROTECTING THEM,
BUT THEY GOT ABDUCTED ANYWAY.
WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?
SPOKEN LIKE SOMEONE WHO'S NEVER BEEN KIDNAPPED.
ンム ゴゴ
WHATEVER. YOU BETTER GIVE THIS SOME SERIOUS THOUGHT TONIGHT.
THE LEADER TOLD US THIS WAS HOMEWORK.
YEAH, YEAH.
SEE YOU TOMORROW, DOJI!

DO NOT DISTURB
HOME-WORK, HUH?

FLOP
Hffff...
Time for what we detectives call some "deduction."
A theory ...


ROLL
I'm not much for detective novels and whatnot.
Bleh.
This is gonna be rough...

By altering universally acclaimed masterpieces, the artist is trying to put across some idea...
A satirical message, in the delinquent's vein?
Were they meant as some kind of critique?
That theory isn't beautiful enough...
But no...
BEEPIPIPI
HUH?
Not another summons ?!
BEEP
H-HELLO?
Th-That voice... It can't be.
Hello? It's me.

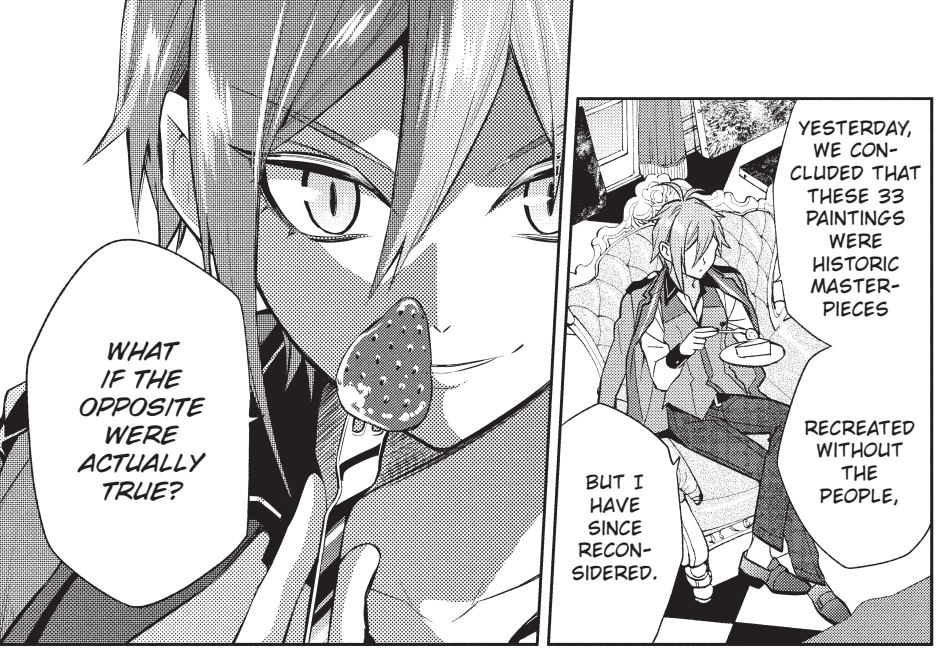
You probably don't remember me.
It's Lai. Lai Fudatsuki.
Fudatsuki ...?!

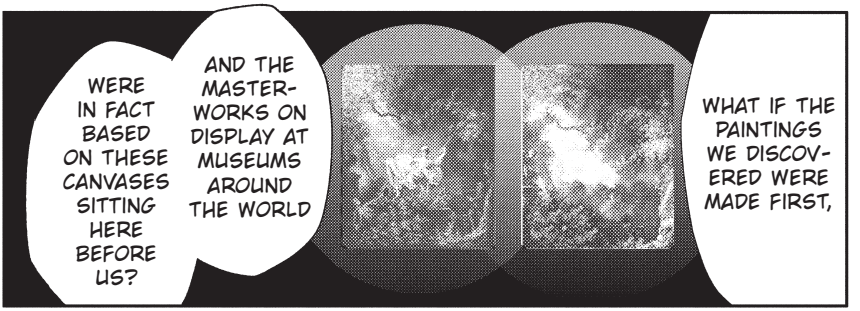
PRETTY BOY

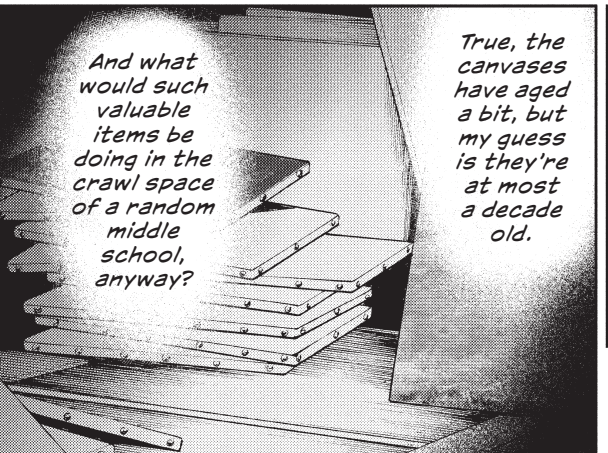
DETECTIVE CLUB!!

FILE ★ The Pretty Boy in the Attic 3

ゴーン
DONG
リーン
DING
ゴーン
DONG
リーン
DING
WELL THEN!
LET THE PRESENTATION OF THEORIES BEGIN!
I'D HATE TO RAIN ON EVERYONE'S PARADE BY SOLVING THE MYSTERY STRAIGHT OFF,
BUT IF I DO, PLEASE SHOUT "COWABUNGA!"
I'LL TAKE THE LIBERTY OF STARTING WITH MY-SELF!


WHAT IF THE OPPOSITE WERE ACTUALLY TRUE?
YESTERDAY, WE CONCLUDED THAT THESE 33 PAINTINGS WERE HISTORIC MASTERPIECES
RECREATED WITHOUT THE PEOPLE,
BUT I HAVE SINCE RECONSIDERED.


WERE IN FACT BASED ON THESE CANVASES SITTING HERE BEFORE US?
AND THE MASTERWORKS ON DISPLAY AT MUSEUMS AROUND THE WORLD
WHAT IF THE PAINTINGS WE DISCOVERED WERE MADE FIRST,


And what would such valuable items be doing in the crawl space of a random middle school, anyway?
True, the canvases have aged a bit, but my guess is they're at most a decade old.

SORRY, NO "COWA-BUNGA!" FOR YOU!
I'M NOT A SURFER, ANYWAY
WHA...

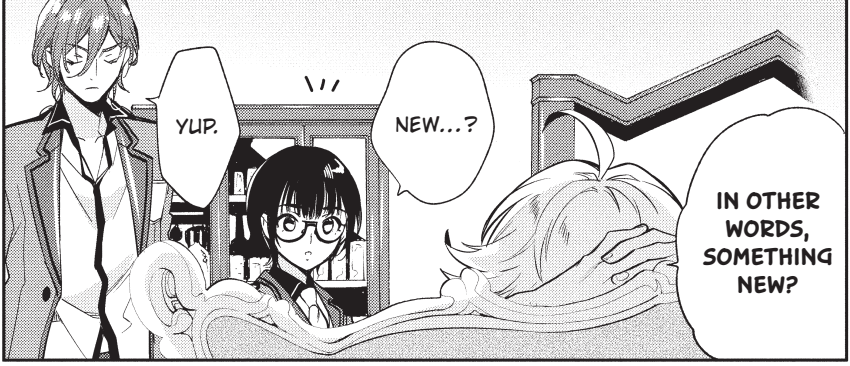
BAM
IF SO MANY ARTISTIC INNOVATIONS DID INDEED ORIGINATE HERE IN THIS ART ROOM,
THEN I, AS LEADER OF THE DETECTIVE CLUB HEAD-QUARTERED HERE, WOULD BE MOST PROUD.
MY ONLY REGRET IS THAT THIS THEORY DOES NOT EXPLAIN THE ABSENCE OF THE MONA LISA.

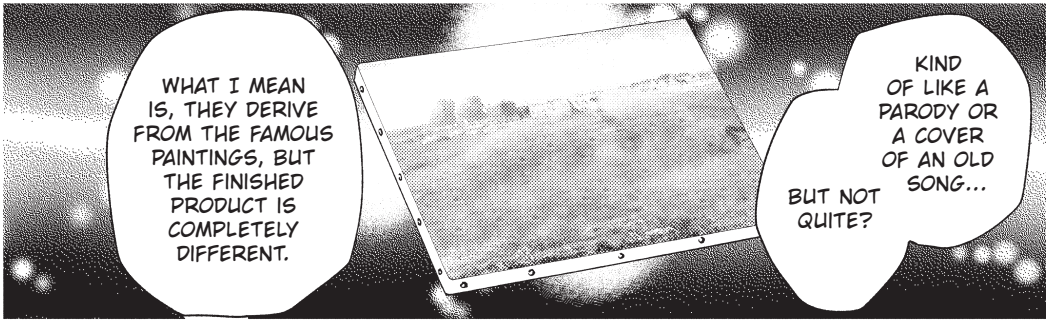
A SUPERB DEDUCTION, MR. PRESIDENT.
SUCH A TWIST BRINGS TO MIND THE EPIC REVERSALS IN THE CLASSIC MYSTERY NOVELS OF YESTER-YEAR.

BUT IF WE ASSUME THAT LEONARDO DA VINCI ONCE STUDIED AT THIS SCHOOL,
THEN IT ALL FALLS INTO PLACE!!
Falls to pieces is more like it !!!

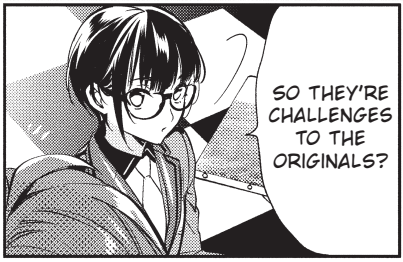
Well, LET'S WITHHOLD JUDGMENT TILL WE'VE ALL PRESENTED OUR THEORIES.
ANYONE MIND IF I GO NEXT?

I'M NOT GOOD AT THEORETICAL STUFF, AND CREATIVITY AIN'T MY THING.
SHF
SORRY, BUT COMPARED TO THE PRESIDENT'S THEORY, MINE'S PRETTY ORDINARY.
like a beef bowl without the beef...
MORE LIKE COOKING WITHOUT THE MAIN INGREDI-ENTS.
RIGHT ...
SO THEY'RE NOT COPIES, AND THEY'RE NOT EXERCISES.
IT'D BE LIKE TRYING TO COOK WITHOUT ANY SEASONINGS.
YOU'D PICK UP SOME WEIRD HABITS PRACTICING LIKE THAT, AFTER ALL.
YESTERDAY WE SHOT DOWN THE IDEA THAT THE ARTIST DID THESE FOR PRACTICE, RIGHT?
BUT WHAT IF
THEY'RE NEITHER COPIES NOR EXERCISES?


YUP.
NEW...?
IN OTHER WORDS, SOMETHING NEW?


WHAT I MEAN IS, THEY DERIVE FROM THE FAMOUS PAINTINGS, BUT THE FINISHED PRODUCT IS COMPLETELY DIFFERENT.
KIND OF LIKE A PARODY OR A COVER OF AN OLD SONG...
BUT NOT QUITE?

NO, NOTHING CRITICAL OR MALICIOUS LIKE THAT.

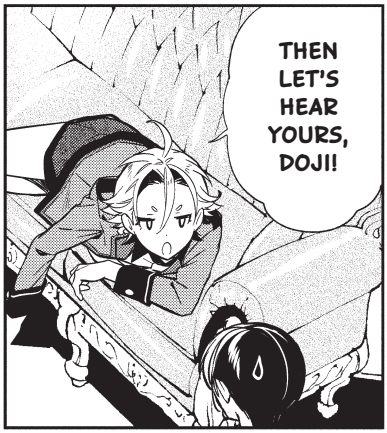

SO THEY'RE CHALLENGES TO THE ORIGINALS?

UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF VAN GOGH'S?
GAUGIN PAINTING HIS OWN *SUNFLOWERS*
YOU MEAN LIKE

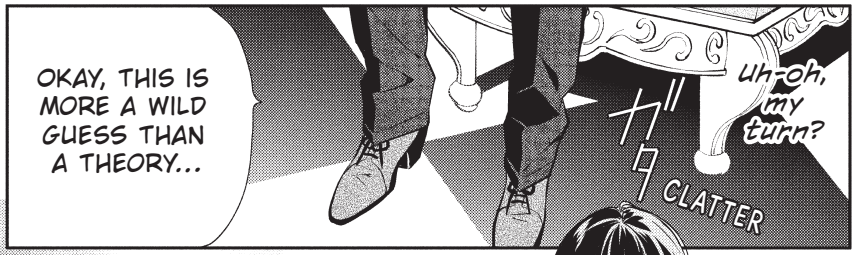
THAT'S QUITE AN INTERESTING IDEA, MICHIRU.
YOUR THEORY DOES SEEM LIKE SOMETHING OUT OF A MYSTERY NOVEL.
VAN GOGH? GAUGIN? SUNFLOWERS? WHO'RE THEY?
"Sunflowers" isn't a person's name, Delinquent.
ha ha ha...
THE DELINQUENT'S THEORY IS SENSIBLE, BUT IT STILL HAS A FATAL FLAW:
WHY ISN'T THE MONA LISA AMONG THE 33 PAINTINGS?
FIRST OF ALL, KID, STOP CALLING ME "THE DELINQUENT."
SINCE MICHIRU DOESN'T SEEM TO HAVE AN EXPLANATION FOR THAT,
I'LL GO NEXT!
ME, MEEE!
...

I WASN'T ABLE TO COME UP WITH AN ARTISTIC INTERPRETATION LIKE MICHIRU AND THE PRESIDENT.
SINCE I'M THE ATHLETIC TYPE, AS YOU CAN SEE,
LIKE, IF I WERE THE ARTIST, WHY WOULD I PAINT THOSE PICTURES LIKE THAT?
SO I DECIDED TO WORK WITH WHAT I COULD SEE WITH MY OWN TWO EYES.
WHY WOULD I COMMIT THE CRIME OF REMOVING THE NUDES FROM NUDE PAINTINGS?
THAT WAS MY STARTING POINT.
WHY...?
GRRRR
IF I HAD THE SKILLS, I'D WANT TO COPY THE ORIGINALS EXACTLY, RIGHT?
WITHOUT ANYTHING "NEW."

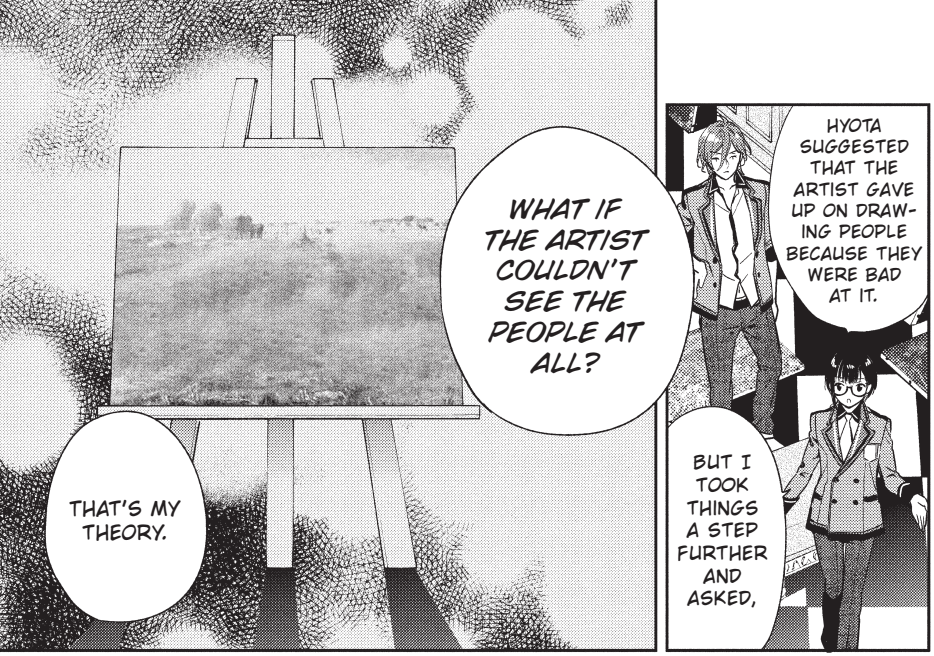
But it is a mystery why anyone would take the bathers out of The Bathers.
IN OTHER WORDS...
...Even more warped than I'd imagined!
SHOCK
SINCE THE PEOPLE WERE A STUMBLING BLOCK, THE ARTIST LEFT THEM OUT TO MAKE IT EASIER.
I FIGURE MAYBE THE ARTIST WAS BAD AT PAINTING PEOPLE.
WAG
WAG
BUT MR. BARE-LEGS...
FASCINATING ...AND THAT CERTAINLY DOES EXPLAIN WHY THERE'S NO PAINTING BASED ON THE MONA LISA.
THAT SHOULD EXPLAIN IT.


THEN LET'S HEAR YOURS, DOJI!

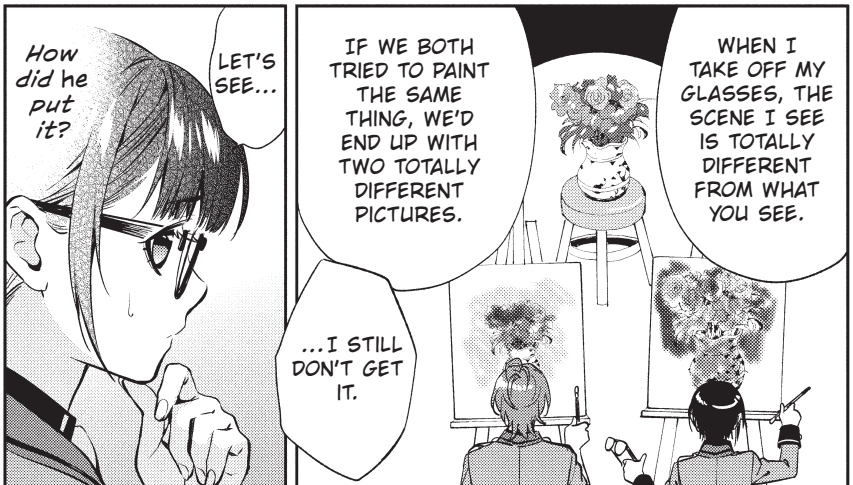
WHAM
THAT THEORY ISN'T BEAUTI-FUL!

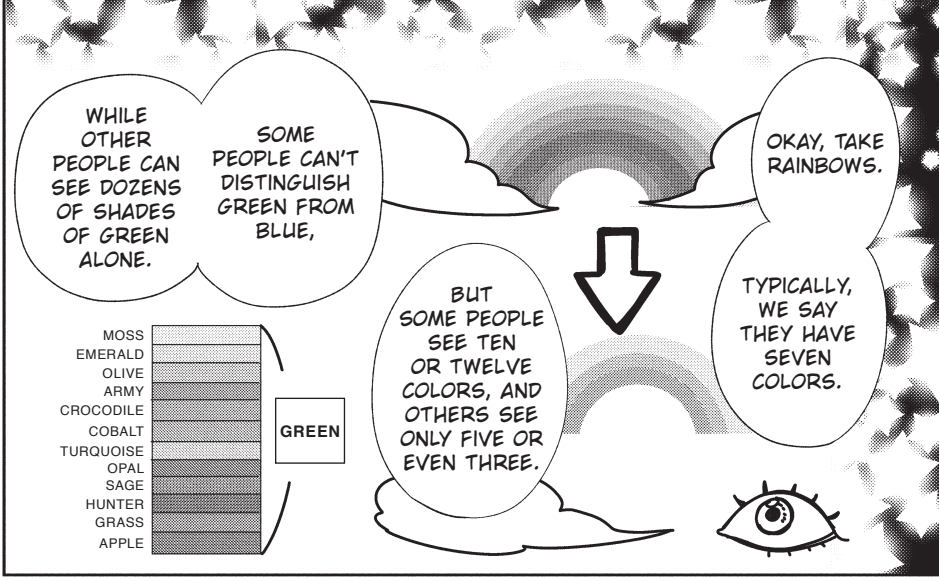

OKAY, THIS IS MORE A WILD GUESS THAN A THEORY...
Uh-oh, my turn?
CLATTER

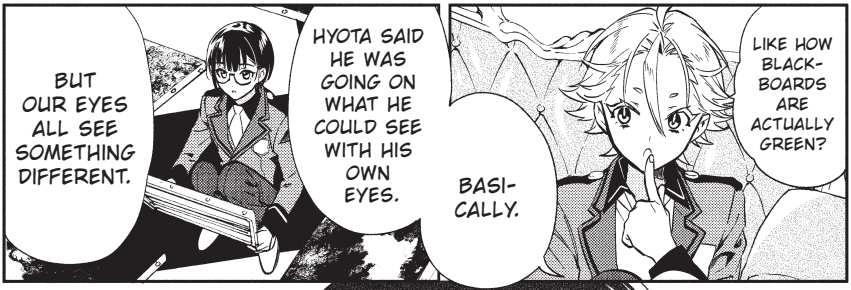
And strictly speaking, it's not even mine, but...


WHAT IF THE ARTIST COULDN'T SEE THE PEOPLE AT ALL?
THAT'S MY THEORY.
HYOTA SUGGESTED THAT THE ARTIST GAVE UP ON DRAWING PEOPLE BECAUSE THEY WERE BAD AT IT.
BUT I TOOK THINGS A STEP FURTHER AND ASKED,

LOOK, EYESIGHT ISN'T THE SAME FOR EVERYONE— I'M A PERFECT EXAMPLE.
WHAT THE HELL DOES THAT EVEN MEAN?


How did he put it?
LET'S SEE...
IF WE BOTH TRIED TO PAINT THE SAME THING, WE'D END UP WITH TWO TOTALLY DIFFERENT PICTURES.
WHEN I TAKE OFF MY GLASSES, THE SCENE I SEE IS TOTALLY DIFFERENT FROM WHAT YOU SEE.
...I STILL DON'T GET IT.

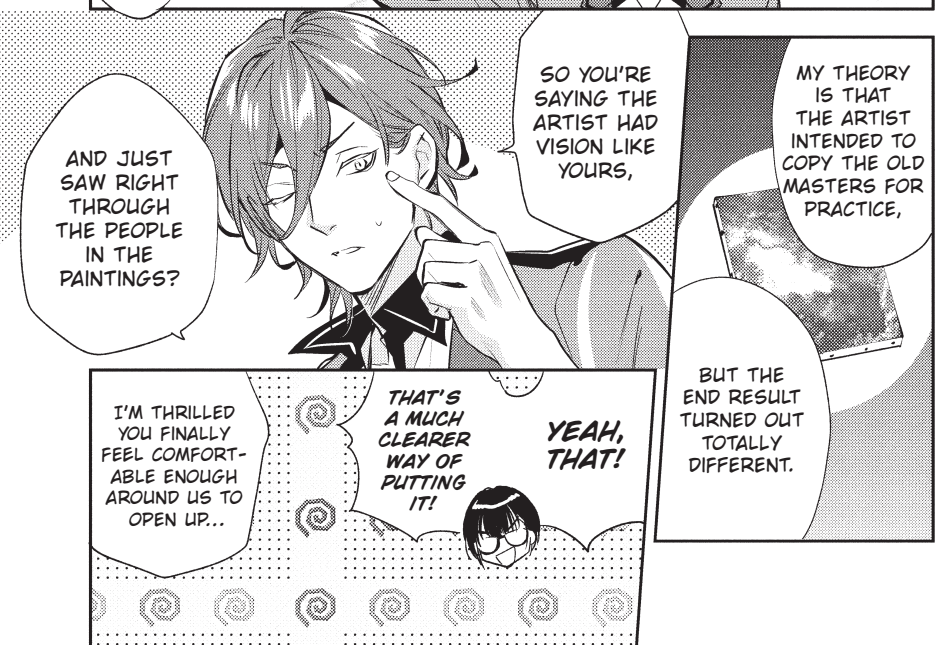

OKAY, TAKE RAINBOWS.
TYPICALLY, WE SAY THEY HAVE SEVEN COLORS.
BUT SOME PEOPLE SEE TEN OR TWELVE COLORS, AND OTHERS SEE ONLY FIVE OR EVEN THREE.
SOME PEOPLE CAN'T DISTINGUISH GREEN FROM BLUE,
WHILE OTHER PEOPLE CAN SEE DOZENS OF SHADES OF GREEN ALONE.
MOSS
EMERALD
OLIVE
ARMY
CROCODILE
COBALT
TURQUOISE
OPAL
SAGE
HUNTER
GRASS
APPLE
GREEN

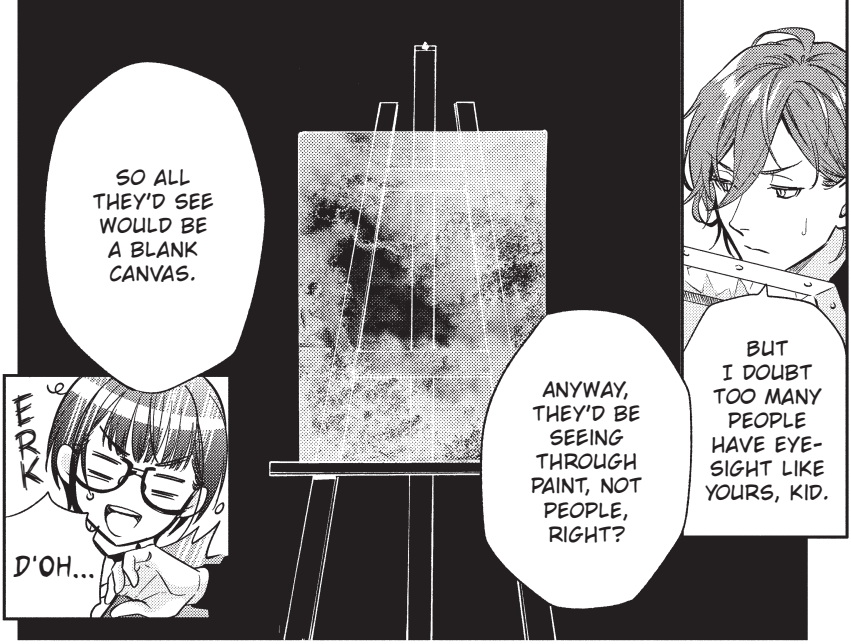

LIKE HOW BLACK-BOARDS ARE ACTUALLY GREEN?
BASI-CALLY.
HYOTA SAID HE WAS GOING ON WHAT HE COULD SEE WITH HIS OWN EYES.
BUT OUR EYES ALL SEE SOMETHING DIFFERENT.

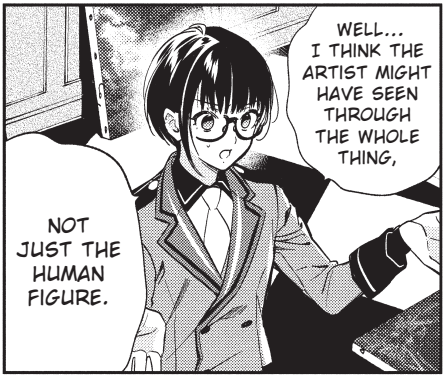
IN EXTREME TERMS, LOOKING AT PAST MASTER-PIECES
IS LIKE SEEING THE WORLD THROUGH THE EYES OF A GENIUS.

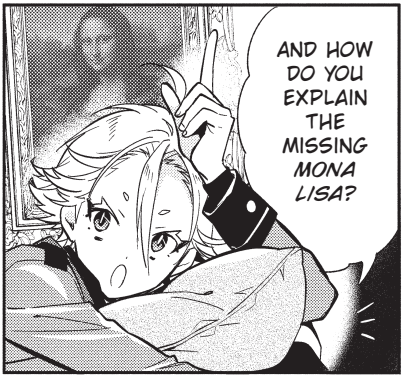
...

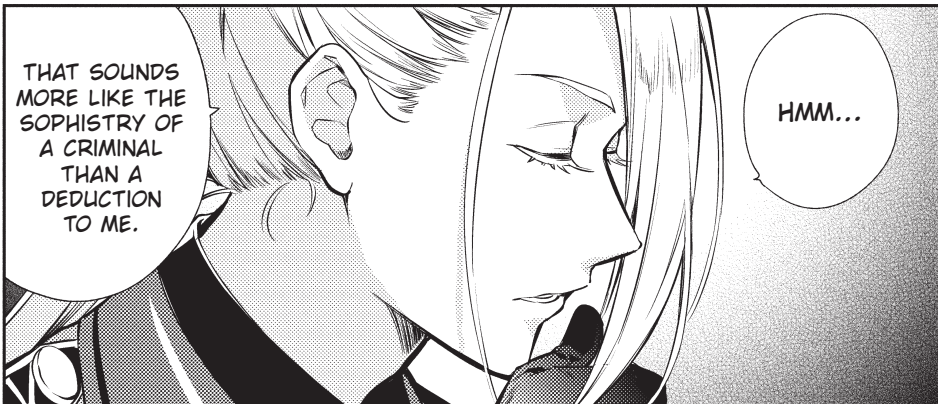
WOOPS!
OR WHATEVER...
I'm just parroting what he said.
ANYHOO...


MY THEORY IS THAT THE ARTIST INTENDED TO COPY THE OLD MASTERS FOR PRACTICE,
SO YOU'RE SAYING THE ARTIST HAD VISION LIKE YOURS,
BUT THE END RESULT TURNED OUT TOTALLY DIFFERENT.
AND JUST SAW RIGHT THROUGH THE PEOPLE IN THE PAINTINGS?
YEAH, THAT!
THAT'S A MUCH CLEARER WAY OF PUTTING IT!
I'M THRILLED YOU FINALLY FEEL COMFORTABLE ENOUGH AROUND US TO OPEN UP...

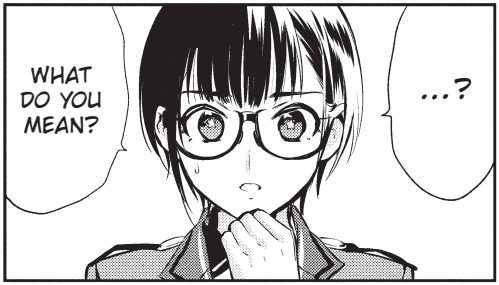

SO ALL THEY'D SEE WOULD BE A BLANK CANVAS.
ERK
D'OH...
ANYWAY, THEY'D BE SEEING THROUGH PAINT, NOT PEOPLE, RIGHT?
BUT I DOUBT TOO MANY PEOPLE HAVE EYE-SIGHT LIKE YOURS, KID.


WELL... I THINK THE ARTIST MIGHT HAVE SEEN THROUGH THE WHOLE THING,
NOT JUST THE HUMAN FIGURE.

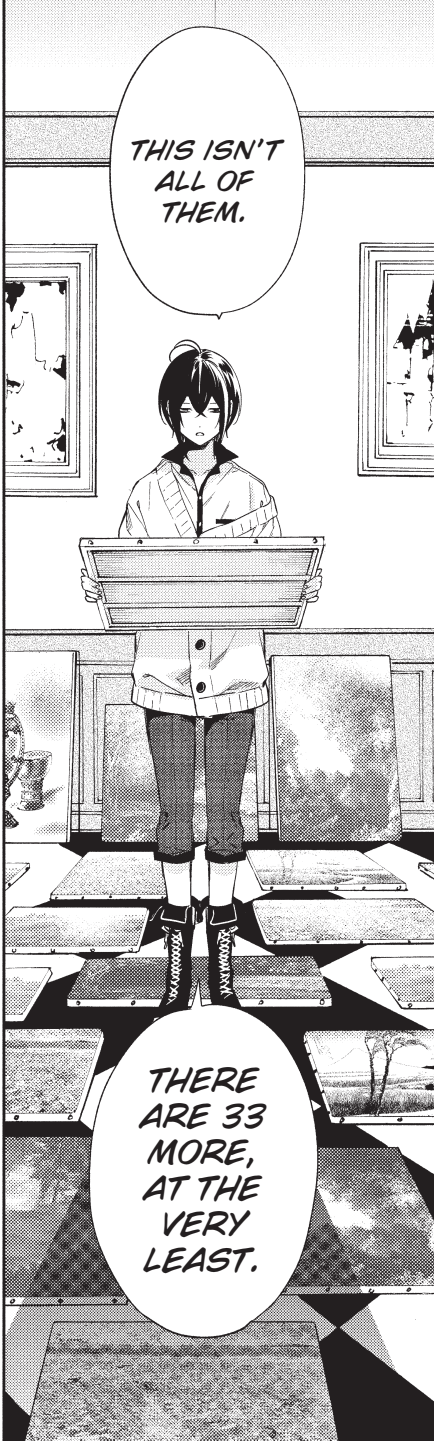

AND HOW DO YOU EXPLAIN THE MISSING *MONA LISA*?


HMM...
THAT SOUNDS MORE LIKE THE SOPHISTRY OF A CRIMINAL THAN A DEDUCTION TO ME.

NOW, NOW.
MUNCH
SOPHISTRY IT MAY BE, BUT WHAT GRACEFUL, BEAUTIFUL SOPHISTRY!
IT'S NOT HALF BAD FOR YOUR FIRST ATTEMPT, YOUNG DOJIMA!
MUNCH
NEXT LET'S HEAR FROM SOSAKU!
HUH?
YUBIWA'S PRESENT-ING A THEORY?
I'd assumed he would stick to listening.
...

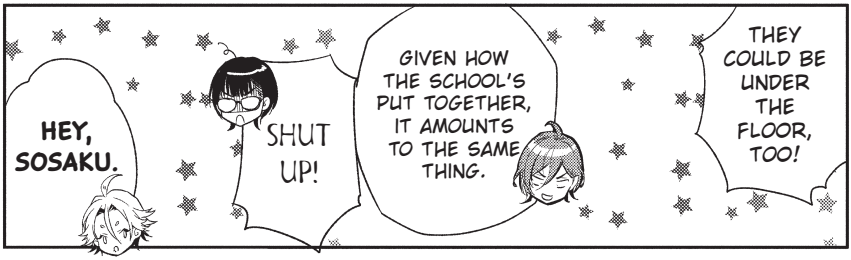

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
...?

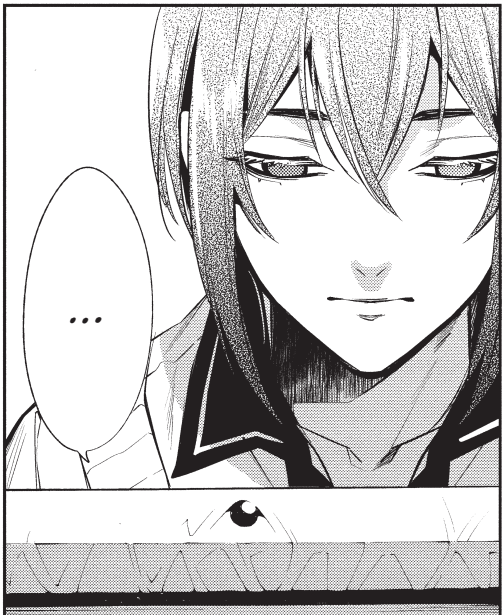
SO THAT'S IT!
AHA!


THIS ISN'T ALL OF THEM.
THERE ARE 33 MORE, AT THE VERY LEAST.

SLAM
THAT'S WHAT, SOTOIN?!
SOSAKU SAID, "THIS ISN'T ALL OF THEM."
"THERE ARE 33 MORE, AT THE VERY LEAST."
UH HUH, AND?
FWUMP
AND?
AND THAT'S ALL.
"That's all," he says !!!
IF, AS SOSAKU SUGGESTS, THERE ARE 33 MORE PAINTINGS IN THE SERIES,
THEN THOSE MISSING CANVASES MIGHT INCLUDE THE MONA LISA.
BUT THOSE WERE THE ONLY ONES UP THERE, SAKIGUCHI.
WHO'S TO SAY THE CRAWL SPACE WAS THE ARTIST'S ONLY HIDING PLACE?

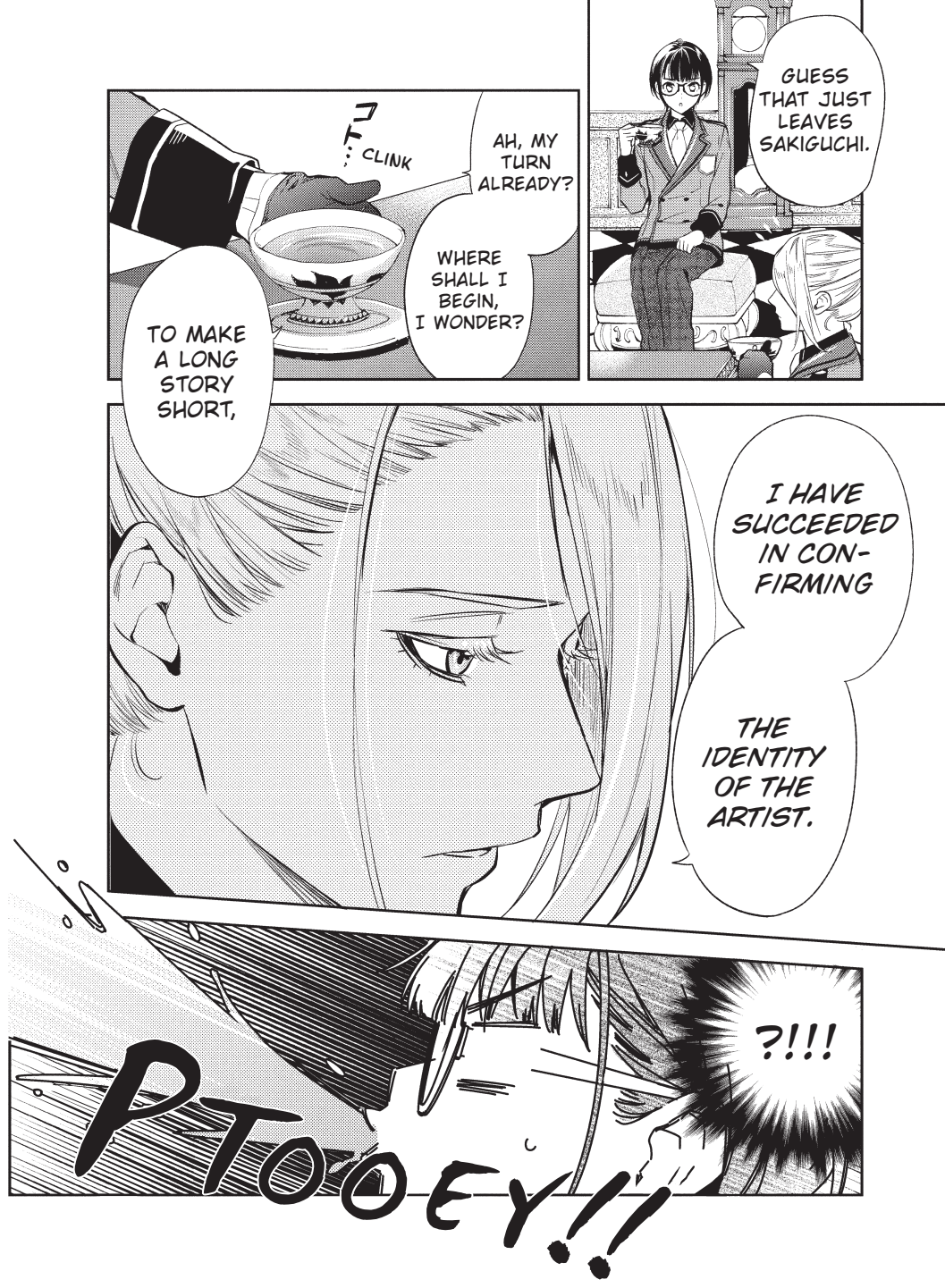
KEH HEH HEH
GOOD POINT.
DOJIMA'LL JUST HAVE TO POKE AROUND IN ALL THE CRAWL SPACES IN THE SCHOOL.
hardehar
PAT
ポーン
WHAT ?!
ポーン
PAT
SCRAPE
SCRAPE
SCRAPE
What the hell is this delinquent suggesting ?!


HEY, SOSAKU.
SHUT UP!
GIVEN HOW THE SCHOOL'S PUT TOGETHER, IT AMOUNTS TO THE SAME THING.
THEY COULD BE UNDER THE FLOOR, TOO!

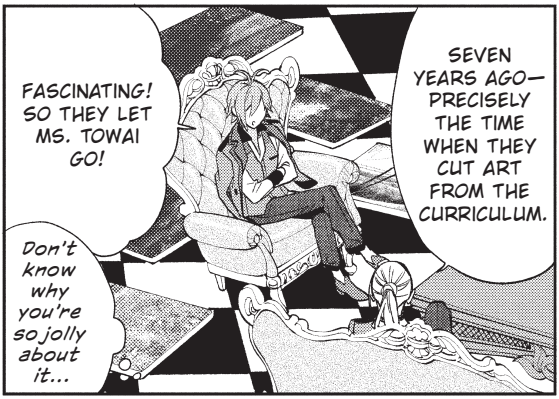

...

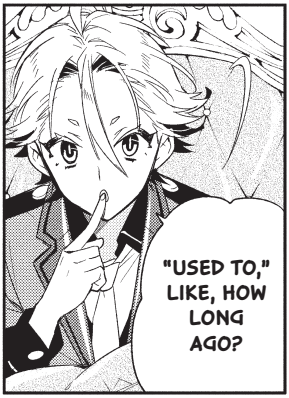
WHAT'S THE MAXIMUM?
IF 33 IS THE MINIMUM,

SOSAKU SAYS HE CAN'T ESTIMATE
THE UPPER LIMIT.
NO,
HIS THEORY APPEARS TO BE BASED ON ARTISTIC INTUITION ALONE.
SOSAKU THE ARTISTE HAS NO PROOF.
...I FEEL LIKE
GOT ANY PROOF?
YOU GAVE US THE CONCLUSION WITHOUT TELLING US HOW YOU GOT THERE.
His theory does explain the mystery of the absent Mona Lisa,
but it ignores the question of why the artist painted these pictures.

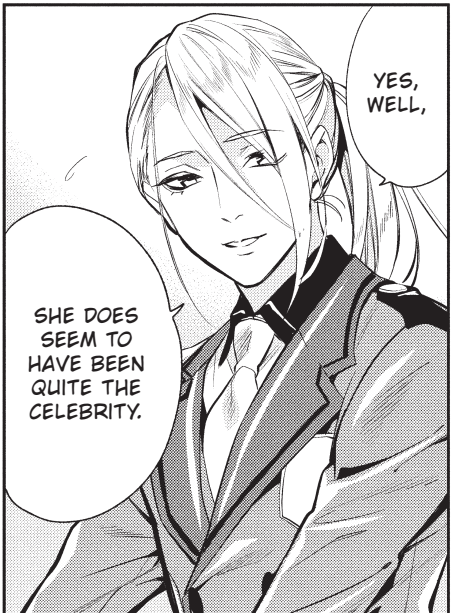

GUESS THAT JUST LEAVES SAKIGUCHI.
コト… CLINK
AH, MY TURN ALREADY?
WHERE SHALL I BEGIN, I WONDER?
TO MAKE A LONG STORY SHORT,
I HAVE SUCCEEDED IN CON-FIRMING
THE IDENTITY OF THE ARTIST.
?!!!
PTOOEY!!!

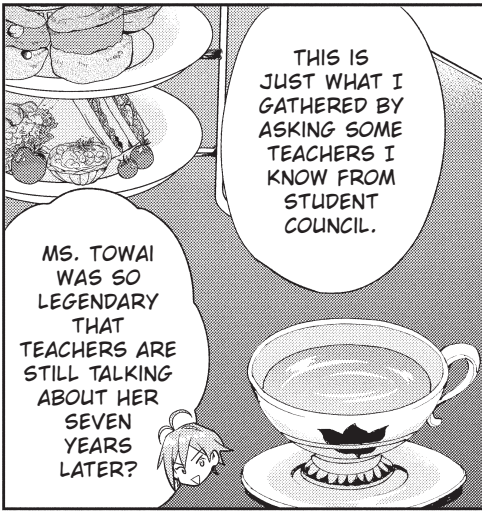
ISN'T THAT THE SAME AS SOLVING THE MYSTERY?
DAB
JUMP
YOU HAVE?!
Q.E.D.?!
...THE ARTIST'S NAME IS
KOWAKO TOWAI.
SHE USED TO BE AN ART TEACHER AT THIS SCHOOL.


FASCINATING! SO THEY LET MS. TOWAI GO!
SEVEN YEARS AGO—PRECISELY THE TIME WHEN THEY CUT ART FROM THE CURRICULUM.
Don't know why you're so jolly about it...

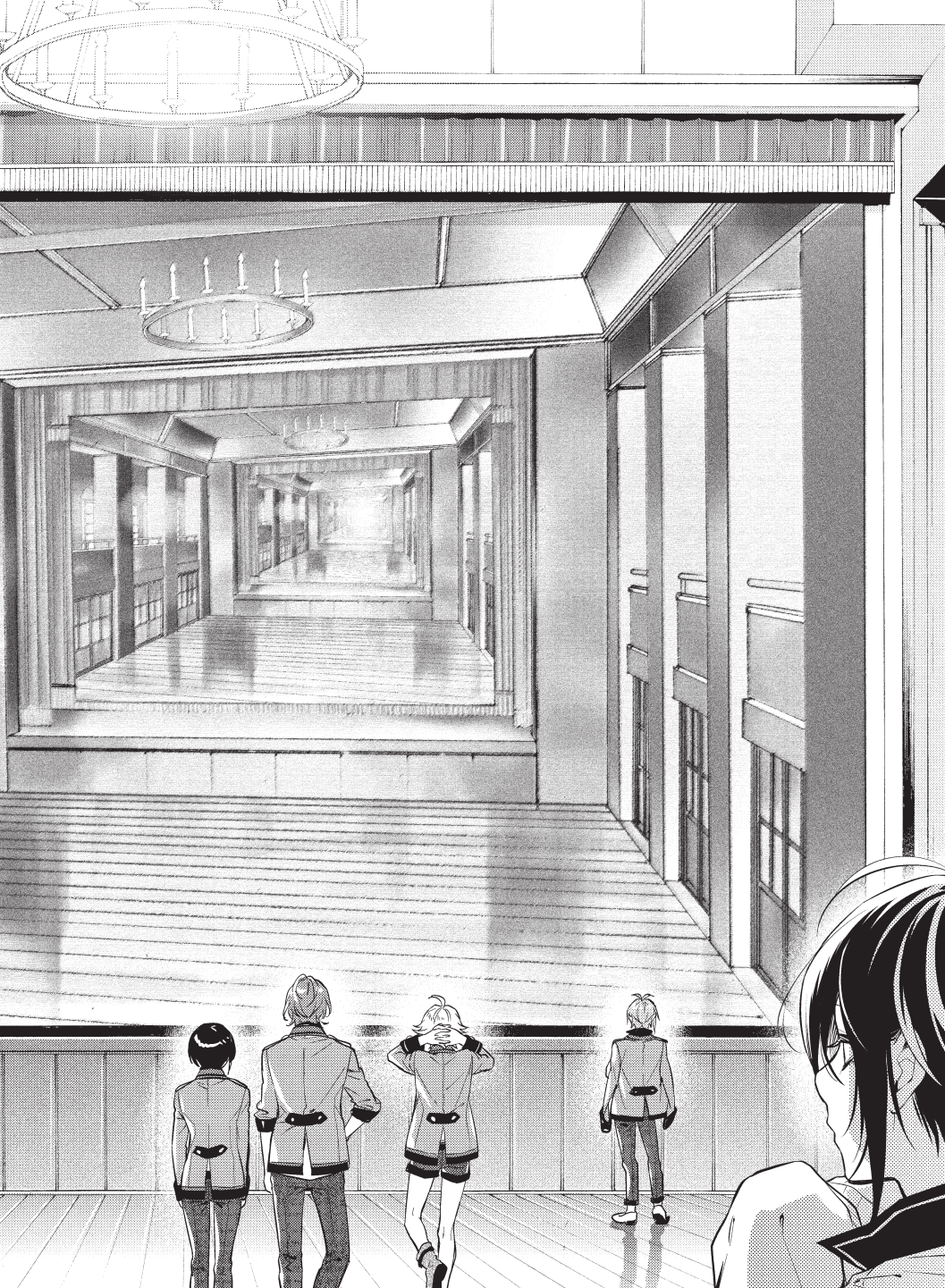

"USED TO," LIKE, HOW LONG AGO?

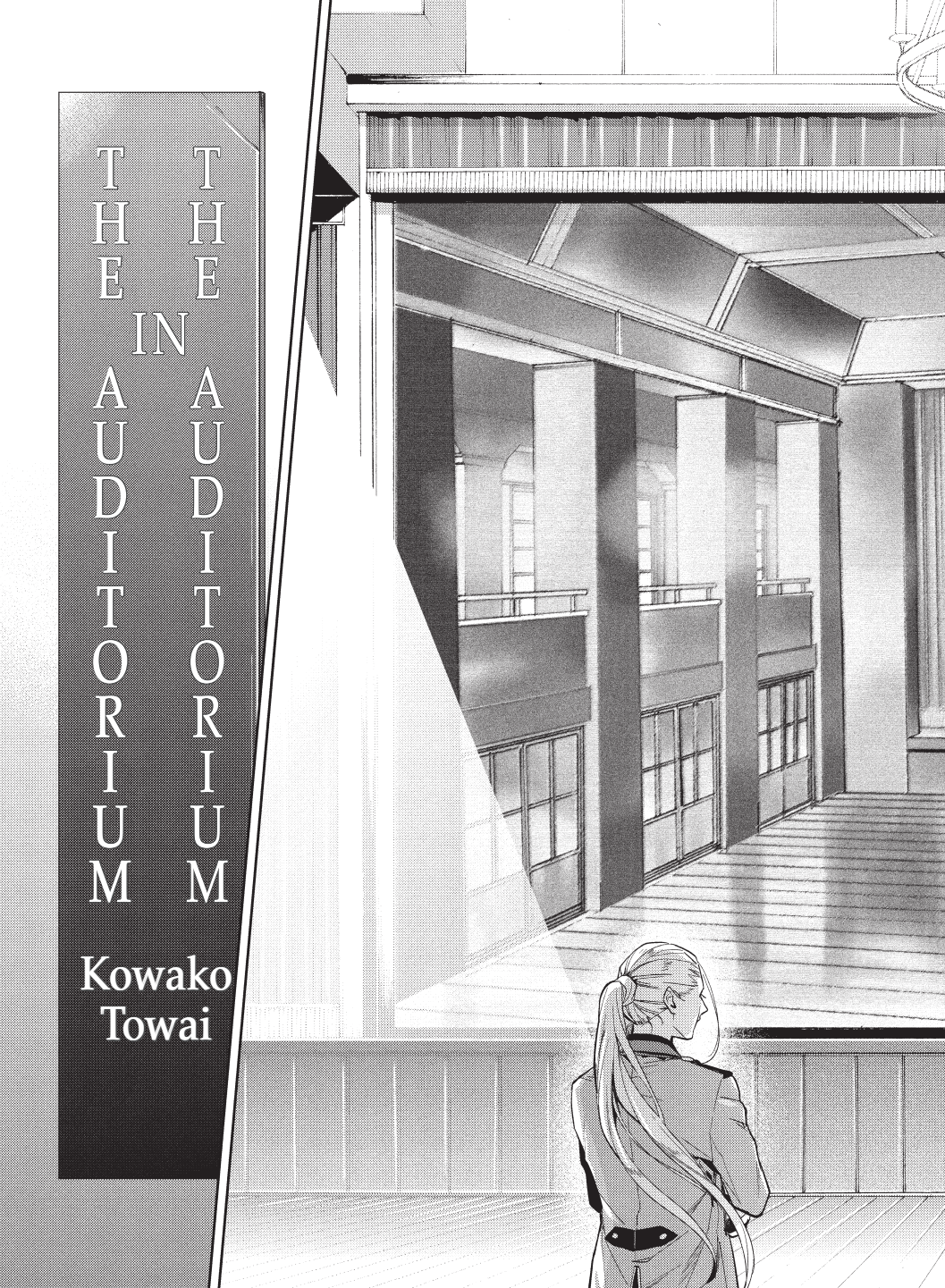
YOU THINK SHE STUFFED THE PAINTINGS IN THE CRAWL SPACE WHEN SHE GOT FIRED?
Was that her revenge?
That's hardly a beautiful solution to our mystery.


YES, WELL,
SHE DOES SEEM TO HAVE BEEN QUITE THE CELEBRITY.


THIS IS JUST WHAT I GATHERED BY ASKING SOME TEACHERS I KNOW FROM STUDENT COUNCIL.
MS. TOWAI WAS SO LEGENDARY THAT TEACHERS ARE STILL TALKING ABOUT HER SEVEN YEARS LATER?

SHALL WE CONTINUE THIS CONVERSATION IN FRONT OF THE PAINTING IN QUESTION?
NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT, THAT NAME DOES SOUND FAMILIAR...
I DOUBT IT, DOJIMA.
"LOOK FAMILIAR" IS MORE LIKE IT.
TAP
YOU KNOW THAT HUMONGOUS PAINTING IN THE AUDITORIUM?
WASN'T KOWAKO TOWAI
THE NAME OF THE PERSON WHO PAINTED IT?
CLACK
INDEED. IT SEEMS MS. TOWAI PAINTED THAT PICTURE DURING HER EMPLOYMENT HERE.
WELL THEN...




THE AUDITORIUM
IN
THE AUDITORIUM
Kowako Towai

PRETTY BOY

DETECTIVE CLUB!!

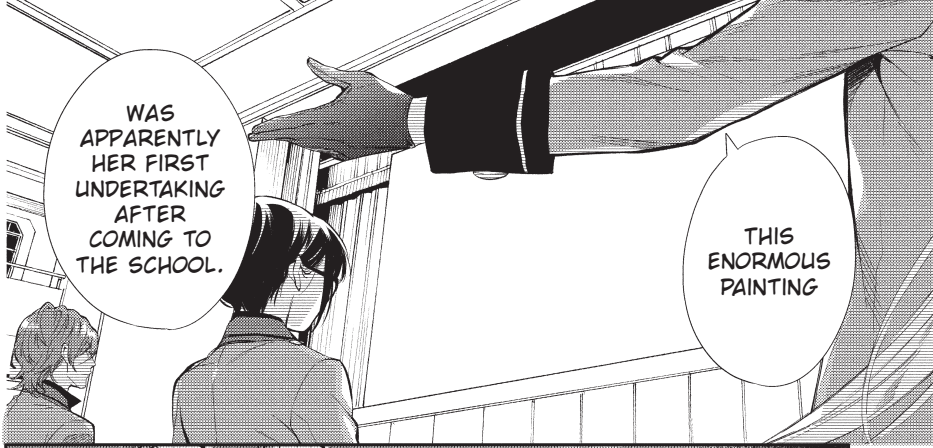
FILE ★ The Pretty Boy in the Attic 4

WHAT A STRANGE PAINTING ...
THE AUDITORIUM IN THE AUDITORIUM IN THE AUDITORIUM IN THE AUDITORIUM...
SO KOWAKO TOWAI PAINTED THIS...

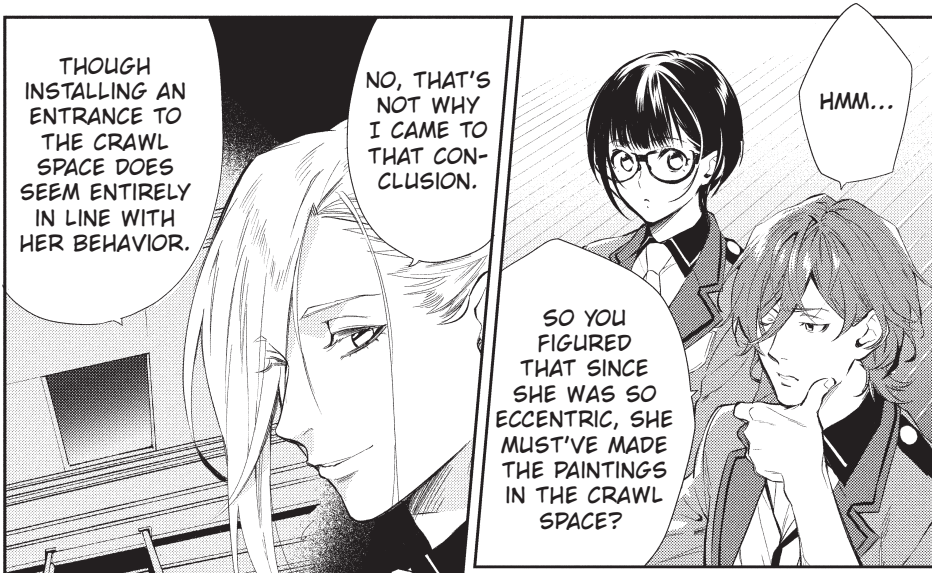
BUT SAKI-GUCHI,
HOW DID YOU CONCLUDE THAT MS. TOWAI PAINTED THE OTHER 33 PICTURES?
POING ひょこっ
I DIDN'T CONCLUDE.
I CAN ONLY CONJECTURE,
BASED ON HEARSAY, THAT THE LIKELIHOOD IS VERY HIGH.
QUIT GRAND-STANDING, NAGAHIRO!
EARLIER YOU SAID YOU'D CONFIRMED IT.
keep up this mealy-mouthed crap and before you know it, your fiancée will be all grown up!
HYOTA, PLEASE DON'T MOCK ME.
NOTHING WOULD PLEASE ME MORE THAN FOR MY FIANCÉE TO BE ALL GROWN UP.
...IN ANY CASE,
ALLOW ME TO TELL YOU ABOUT KOWAKO TOWAI.
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN ...

The teacher in question,
Kowako Towai,
is still talked about seven years after her departure.
She was a
LEGENDARY TEACHER,
in other words.
But her legend is by no means a positive one.
Every one of the teachers who knew her says
she was an "oddball."

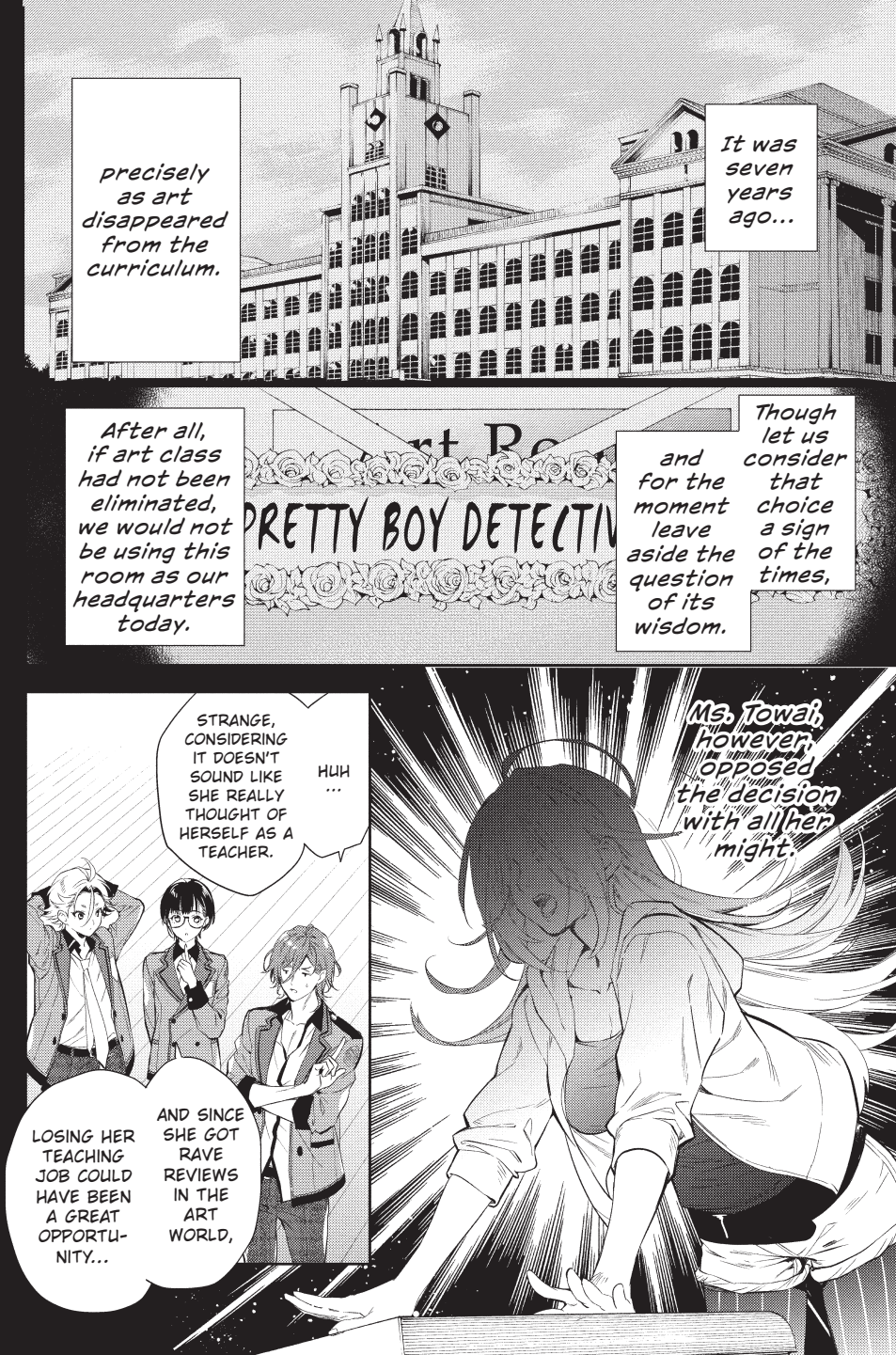
She took a whole class overseas for a sketching competition, without school permission.
To give a few examples of her eccentricity:
and constructing meaningless secret rooms.
removing doors and windows in others,
She remodeled the school willy-nilly,
installing doors to nowhere in some places,
Hyota, please control your reaction to the simple phrase "nude model."
In one of her more endearing episodes, she acted as nude model for her own class.
In fact, her artistic achievements earned her the invitation to teach here in the first place.
As an artist, however, she seems to have been well respected.
Though the school seems to have covered it all up, Ms. Towai was something of an antisocial element.


THIS ENORMOUS PAINTING
WAS APPARENTLY HER FIRST UNDERTAKING AFTER COMING TO THE SCHOOL.

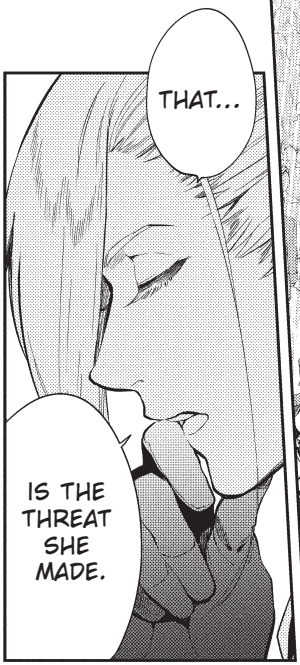
SHE COMMANDEERED THE AUDITORIUM FOR A FULL MONTH TO PAINT IT,
SO FROM THE TIME OF HER ARRIVAL SHE WAS ALREADY SOMETHING OF A LEGEND.


HMM...
SO YOU FIGURED THAT SINCE SHE WAS SO ECCENTRIC, SHE MUST'VE MADE THE PAINTINGS IN THE CRAWL SPACE?
NO, THAT'S NOT WHY I CAME TO THAT CONCLUSION.
THOUGH INSTALLING AN ENTRANCE TO THE CRAWL SPACE DOES SEEM ENTIRELY IN LINE WITH HER BEHAVIOR.

HOW-EVER,
I DON'T BELIEVE SHE AVOIDED PAINTING PEOPLE
BECAUSE SHE WAS BAD AT IT, AS HYOTA HAS SUG-GESTED,
OR THAT SHE SAW THROUGH THE PEOPLE IN FAMOUS PAINTINGS,
AS MS. DOJIMA HAS PRO-POSED.
I BELIEVE SHE PAINTED EXACTLY WHAT SHE WANTED TO PAINT.
AMONG THE THEORIES PRESENTED THUS FAR,
I'D SAY MICHIRU'S LIKELY HEWS CLOSEST TO THE TRUTH.
HA HAH!
GRRR...
I WILL NOW EXPLAIN MY REASONS FOR ASSUMING THAT KOWAKO TOWAI
DID INDEED CREATE THOSE CANVASES.


It was seven years ago...
precisely as art disappeared from the curriculum.
Though let us consider that choice a sign of the times,
and for the moment leave aside the question of its wisdom.
After all, if art class had not been eliminated, we would not be using this room as our headquarters today.
PRETTY BOY DETECTIV
Ms. Towai, however, opposed the decision with all her might.
HUH ...
STRANGE, CONSIDERING IT DOESN'T SOUND LIKE SHE REALLY THOUGHT OF HERSELF AS A TEACHER.
AND SINCE SHE GOT RAVE REVIEWS IN THE ART WORLD,
LOSING HER TEACHING JOB COULD HAVE BEEN A GREAT OPPORTUNITY...

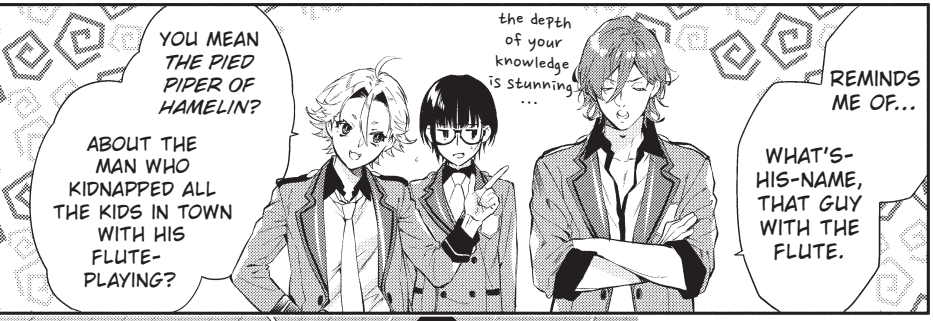
She was offered an enormous severance package, but she couldn't have cared less.
She wouldn't budge. She continued to resist. Alone.
She said the children needed art. She dug in her heels.
IN THE END, SHE EVEN RESORTED TO THREATS.
THREATS ?
"SO IF YOU INSIST ON IMPLEMENTING YOUR DECISION..."
"NO CHILD SHOULD GO TO A SCHOOL WHERE ART IS NOT TAUGHT."

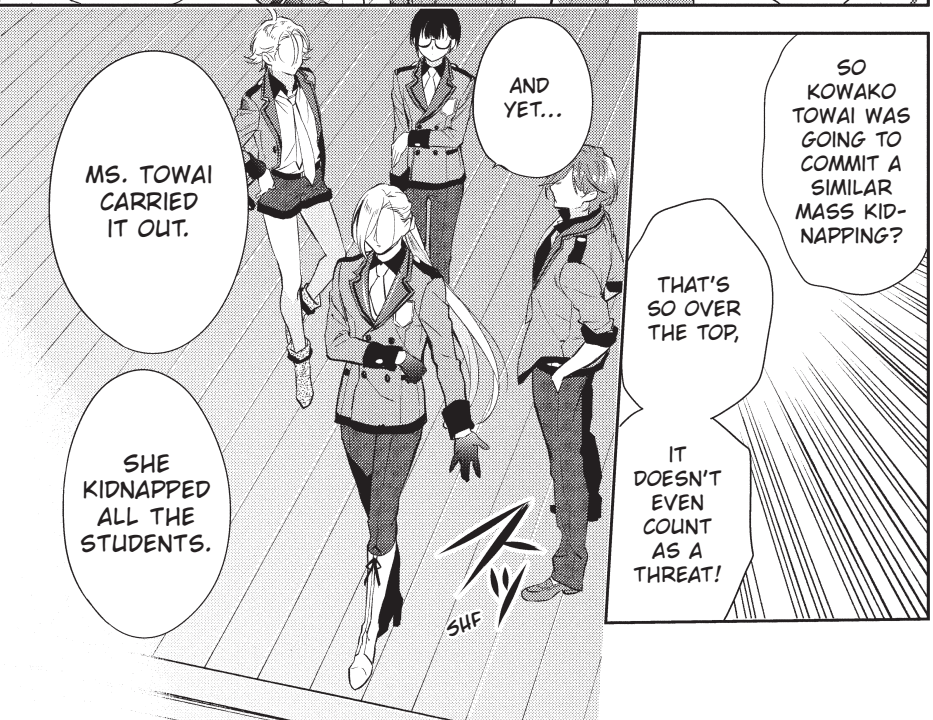

THAT...
IS THE THREAT SHE MADE.

TO KIDNAP EVERY STUDENT ?!

"I WILL KIDNAP EVERY STUDENT IN THIS SCHOOL."

Kidnap them all? Isn't that laying it on a bit too thick?!
In fact, there were probably even more students back then.
Even seven years ago, Yubiwa Academy was probably huge.


YOU MEAN THE PIED PIPER OF HAMELIN?
ABOUT THE MAN WHO KIDNAPPED ALL THE KIDS IN TOWN WITH HIS FLUTE-PLAYING?
the depth of your knowledge is stunning...
REMINDS ME OF...
WHAT'S-HIS-NAME, THAT GUY WITH THE FLUTE.


MS. TOWAI CARRIED IT OUT.
SHE KIDNAPPED ALL THE STUDENTS.
AND YET...
SHF
SO KOWAKO TOWAI WAS GOING TO COMMIT A SIMILAR MASS KID-NAPPING?
THAT'S SO OVER THE TOP,
IT DOESN'T EVEN COUNT AS A THREAT!

SEVEN YEARS AGO,

SHE KIDNAPPED THE STUDENTS IN THIS PICTURE.

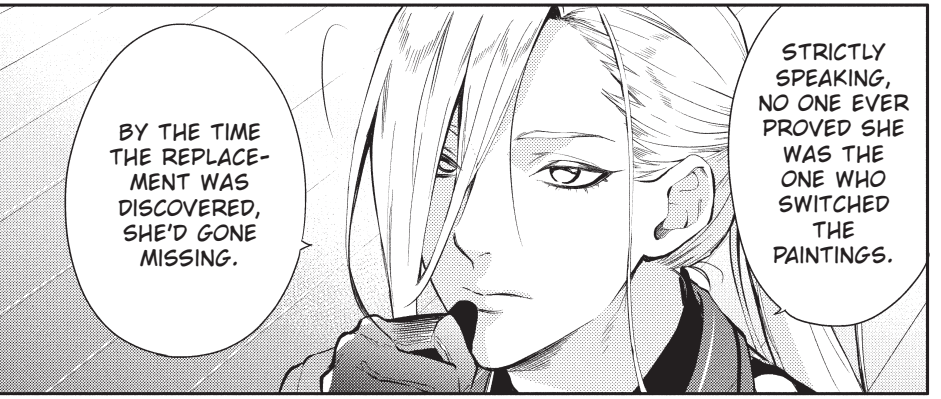
EVERY LAST ONE.

SO THE PAINTING WAS ORIGINALLY FILLED WITH STUDENTS!

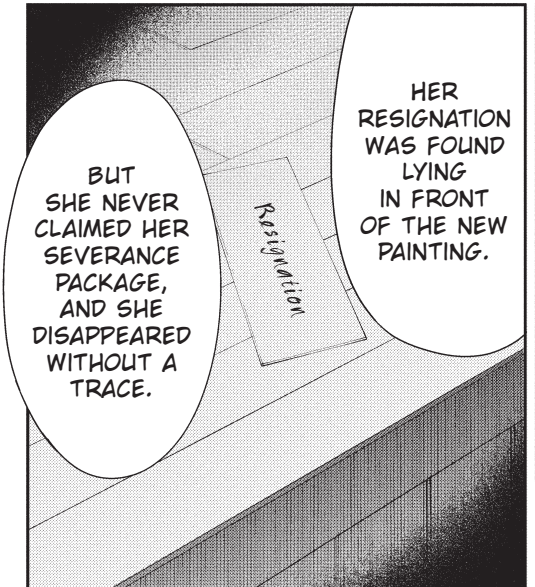
aha

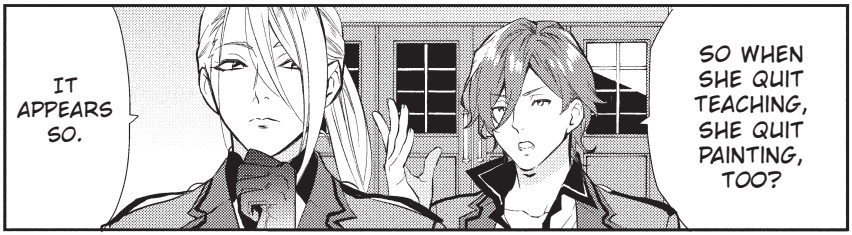
She "kidnapped" the people from a painting—

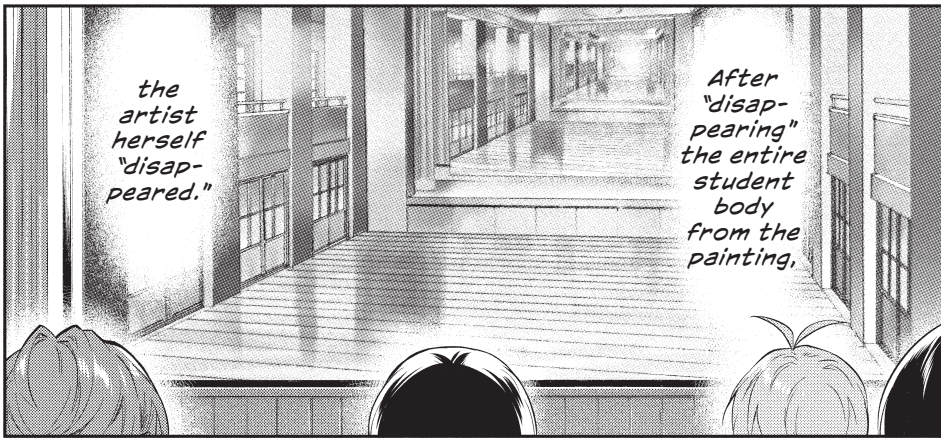
I SEE...
SO THAT'S MS. TOWAI'S "CRIMINAL RECORD."
ARE YOU SAYING THIS "KIDNAPPING"
WAS THE REAL REASON SHE GOT FIRED?
NO.


STRICTLY SPEAKING, NO ONE EVER PROVED SHE WAS THE ONE WHO SWITCHED THE PAINTINGS.
BY THE TIME THE REPLACEMENT WAS DISCOVERED, SHE'D GONE MISSING.

MISSING ...?


HER RESIGNATION WAS FOUND LYING IN FRONT OF THE NEW PAINTING.
Resignation
BUT SHE NEVER CLAIMED HER SEVERANCE PACKAGE, AND SHE DISAPPEARED WITHOUT A TRACE.

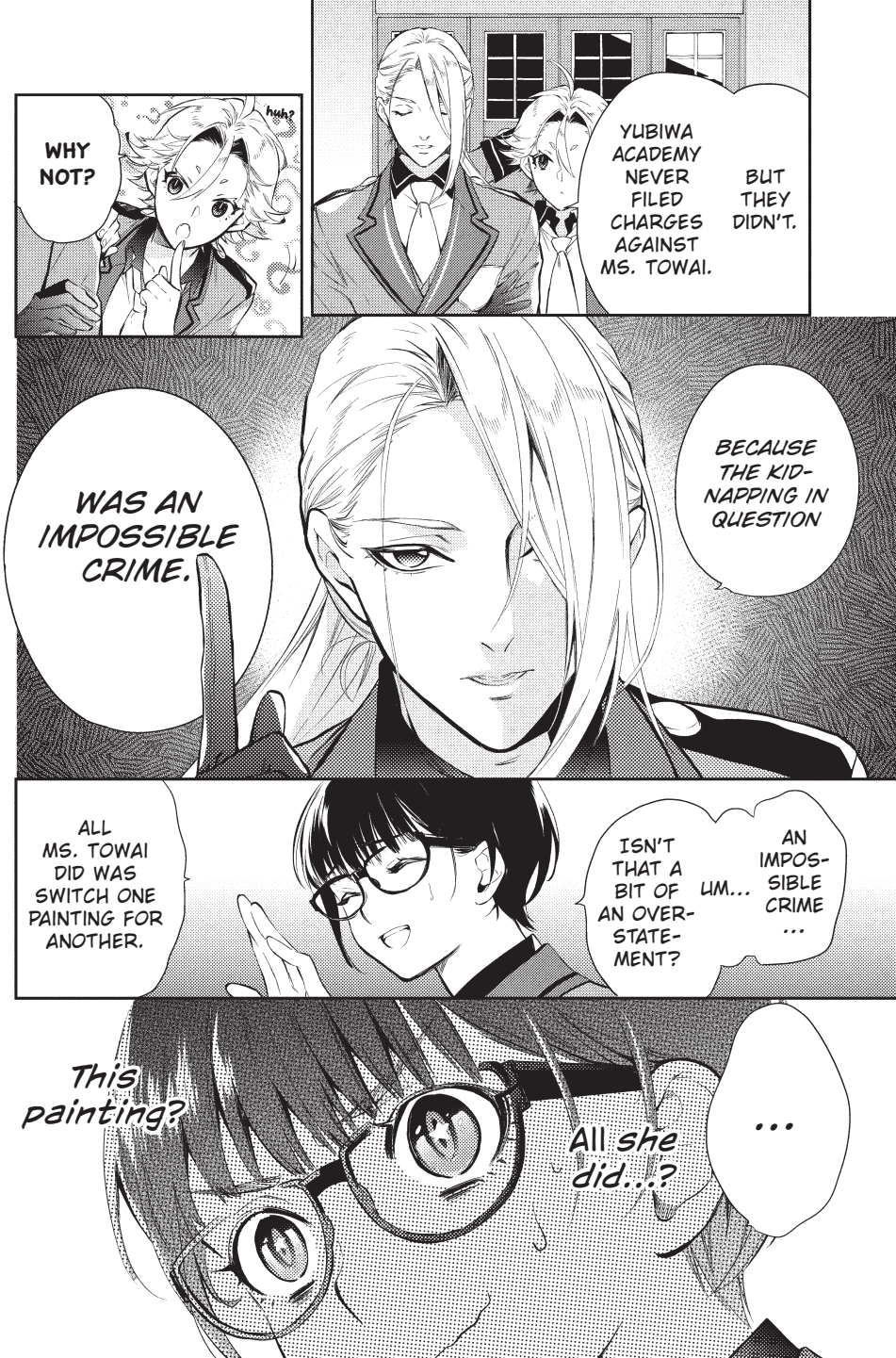

IT APPEARS SO.
SO WHEN SHE QUIT TEACHING, SHE QUIT PAINTING, TOO?


the artist herself "disappeared."
After "disappearing" the entire student body from the painting,

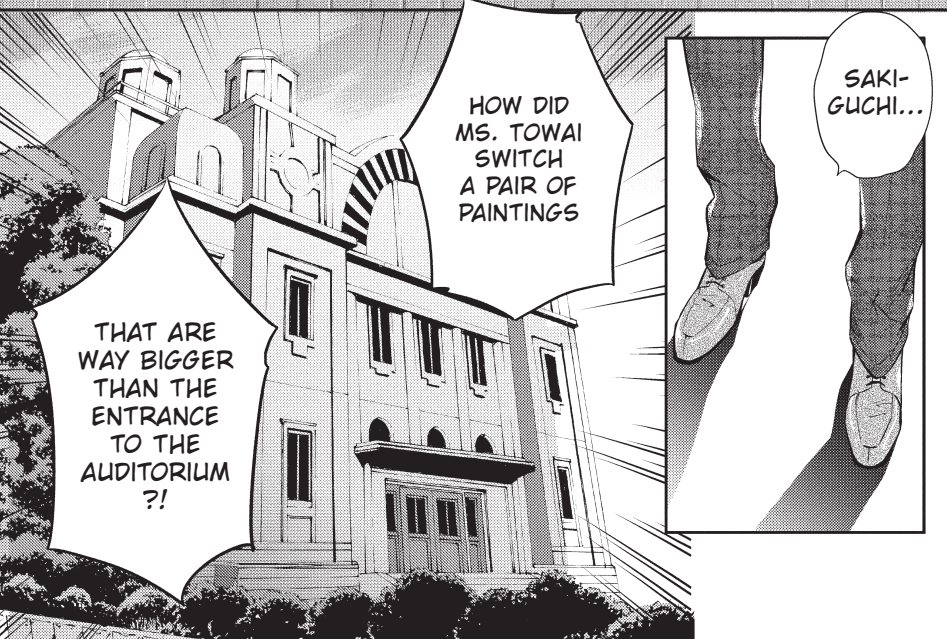
SINCE THE SCHOOL COMPLETELY ELIMINATED ELECTIVES WHEN SHE DISAPPEARED.
DOESN'T SEEM LIKE IT GOT HER ANYWHERE, EITHER...

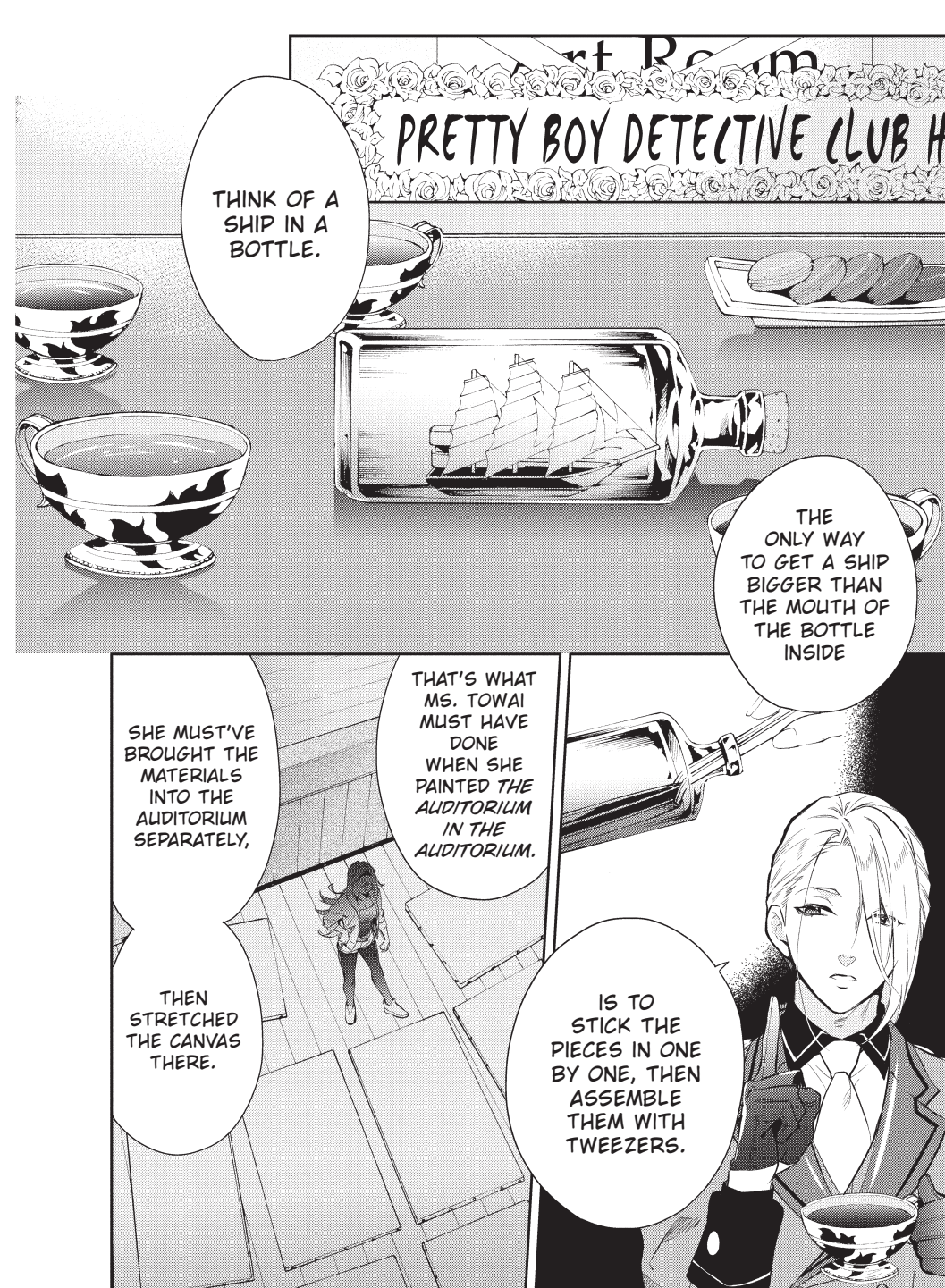
What on earth could be the point of switching one huge painting for another?

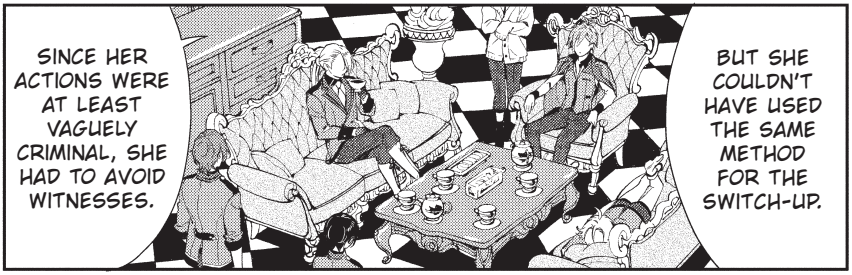
BUT THAT IS EXACTLY WHAT MAKES IT BEAUTIFUL!
IT WAS POINTLESS INDEED!
OR EVEN CAUSING ANY TROUBLE, IS QUITE A FEAT!
KIDNAPPING AN ENTIRE SCHOOL WITHOUT HARMING ANYONE,
WE'RE SAYING SHE "SWITCHED" THE PAINTINGS, BUT WE COULD ALSO CALL IT THEFT.
MAYBE SHE SPLIT BECAUSE IF THE SCHOOL FILED A POLICE REPORT, SHE COULDA BEEN ARRESTED.
BUT PEOPLE WERE HARMED, WEREN'T THEY? SHE DID CAUSE TROUBLE.
...


YUBIWA ACADEMY NEVER FILED CHARGES AGAINST MS. TOWAI.
BUT THEY DIDN'T.
huh?
WHY NOT?
BECAUSE THE KIDNAPPING IN QUESTION
WAS AN IMPOSSIBLE CRIME.
AN IMPOSSIBLE CRIME...
UM...
ISN'T THAT A BIT OF AN OVERSTATEMENT?
ALL MS. TOWAI DID WAS SWITCH ONE PAINTING FOR ANOTHER.
...
All she did...?
This painting?

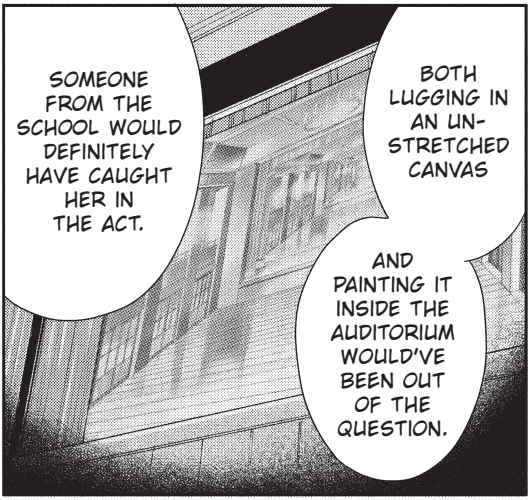
This humongous, size-1,000 painting ???!!

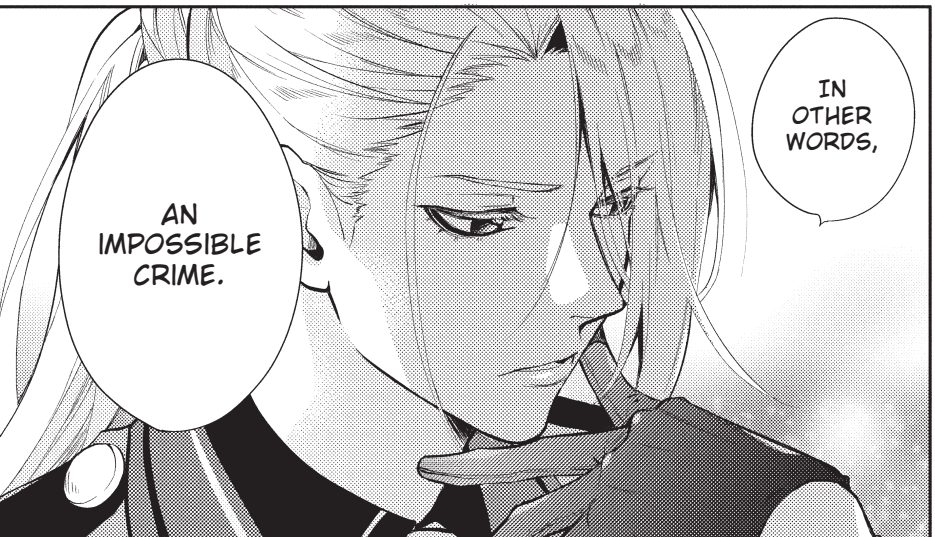



PRETTY BOY DETECTIVE CLUB H
THINK OF A SHIP IN A BOTTLE.
THE ONLY WAY TO GET A SHIP BIGGER THAN THE MOUTH OF THE BOTTLE INSIDE
IS TO STICK THE PIECES IN ONE BY ONE, THEN ASSEMBLE THEM WITH TWEEZERS.
THAT'S WHAT MS. TOWAI MUST HAVE DONE WHEN SHE PAINTED *THE AUDITORIUM IN THE AUDITORIUM.*
SHE MUST'VE BROUGHT THE MATERIALS INTO THE AUDITORIUM SEPARATELY,
THEN STRETCHED THE CANVAS THERE.


SINCE HER ACTIONS WERE AT LEAST VAGUELY CRIMINAL, SHE HAD TO AVOID WITNESSES.
BUT SHE COULDN'T HAVE USED THE SAME METHOD FOR THE SWITCH-UP.

YET IT'S FAR TOO BIG TO FIT THROUGH THE DOOR AFTER PAINTING IT SOMEWHERE ELSE.


SOMEONE FROM THE SCHOOL WOULD DEFINITELY HAVE CAUGHT HER IN THE ACT.
BOTH LUGGING IN AN UN-STRETCHED CANVAS
AND PAINTING IT INSIDE THE AUDITORIUM WOULD'VE BEEN OUT OF THE QUESTION.


IN OTHER WORDS,
AN IMPOSSIBLE CRIME.

To think I've been looking at this painting ever since I came to this school!

It's creepy...

IS FURTHER PROOF THAT I WAS NOT MISTAKEN IN APPOINTING YOU VICE PRESIDENT!

EXCELLENT WORK, NAGAHIRO!

THAT BEAUTIFUL HIDDEN BALL TRICK YOU JUST PERFORMED

BEAUTIFUL!!

BUT IF SHE'S MISSING TOO, THEN THERE'S NOT MUCH WE CAN DO.

THE EASIEST WAY TO SORT THIS OUT WOULD BE TO ASK MS. TOWAI,

Sotoin seems happy to have discovered a new mystery...

SO DAZZLING, IN FACT, THAT I CAN'T HELP BUT THINK YOU'RE AFTER MY POSITION AS PRESIDENT!

HAHA... WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? WHAT AN IDEA.

...
RAISE
I DON'T EVEN KNOW IF SHE'S STILL ALIVE.
THE INVESTIGATION IS ONGOING, BUT IT'S RATHER LIKE TRYING TO CATCH A CLOUD.
WELL, WITH SOSAKU'S AID, I BELIEVE WE CAN FIND HER BY MORNING.
I think ... he wants to help.
FWAM
GOOD!
THEN WE'LL ALL MEET BACK HERE FIRST THING TOMORROW!

PLEASE REDOUBLE YOUR EFFORTS TO DISCOVER THE TRUTH BY THEN!
THAT'S YOUR HOME-WORK!
There's the mystery of the human figures disappearing from those 33 canvases,
and the mystery of the student body being kidnapped from the painting in the auditorium.
Coming up with a beautiful solution to both problems in a single night is beyond me.
TAP
In which case...

I needed to duck out on my escort, just this once.
HUFF
PUFF
MANAGED TO SHAKE OFF THOSE TWO...
BUS
STOP
×LINES
SO YOU CAME AFTER ALL. I'M DELIGHTED.

MS. DOJIMA.
Lai Fudatsuki...
BUS STOP
X LINES

PRETTY BOY

DETECTIVE CLUB!!

FILE ★ The Pretty Boy in the Attic 5

Lai Fudatsuki ...

He's student council president of Kamikazari Middle,

but also a salesman, a businessman, an investor, a manager...

and above all, a playboy.

He must have meant the 10% finder's fee—the 100,000 yen—that he gave me.

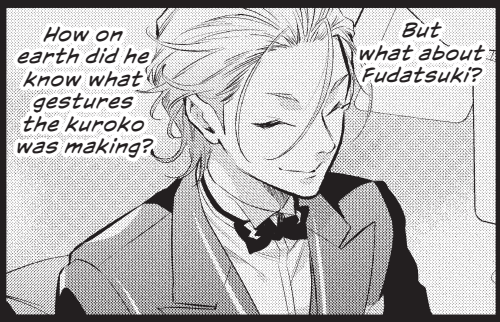
He said I didn't have to come, which of course made me want to...

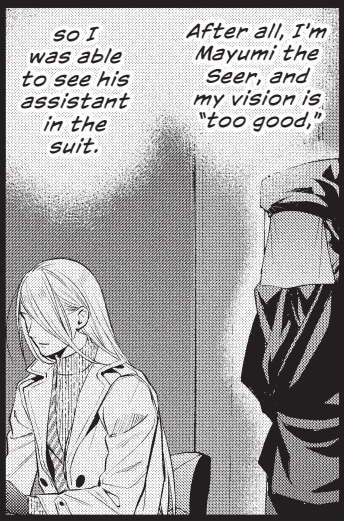
Actually, Ms. Dojima, there's something I'd like you to return...

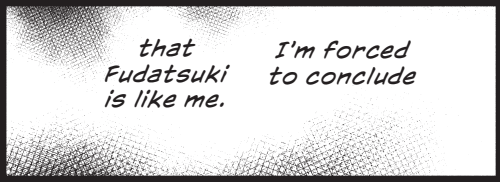
Or perhaps I should say, something you want to return to me.

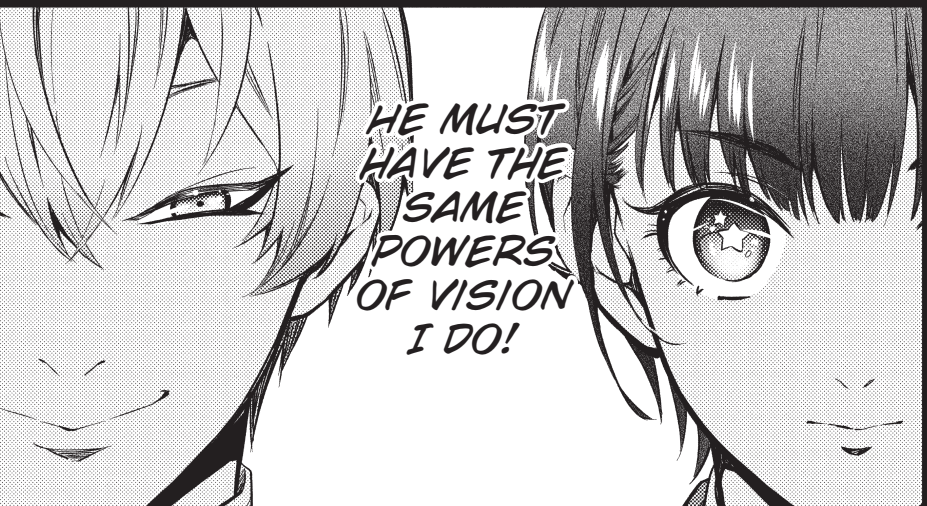
That's what he said last night.

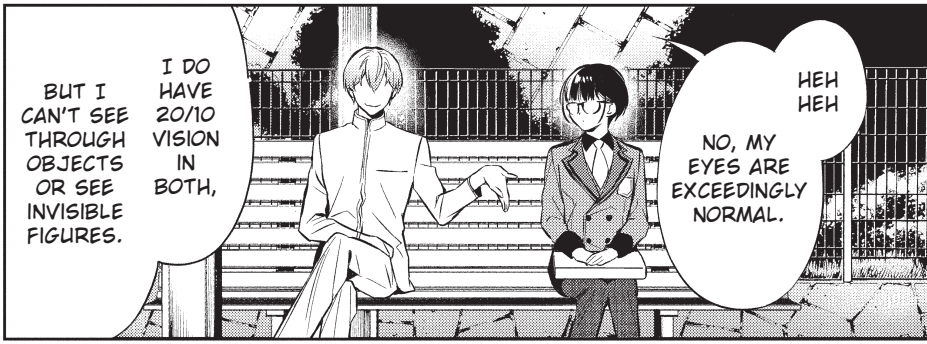
I saw through his "invisibility suit" scam.
When the Pretty Boy Detective Club went to his casino at Kamikazari Middle,


How on earth did he know what gestures the kuroko was making?
But what about Fudatsuki?


so I was able to see his assistant in the suit.
After all, I'm Mayumi the Seer, and my vision is "too good,"


that Fudatsuki is like me.
I'm forced to conclude

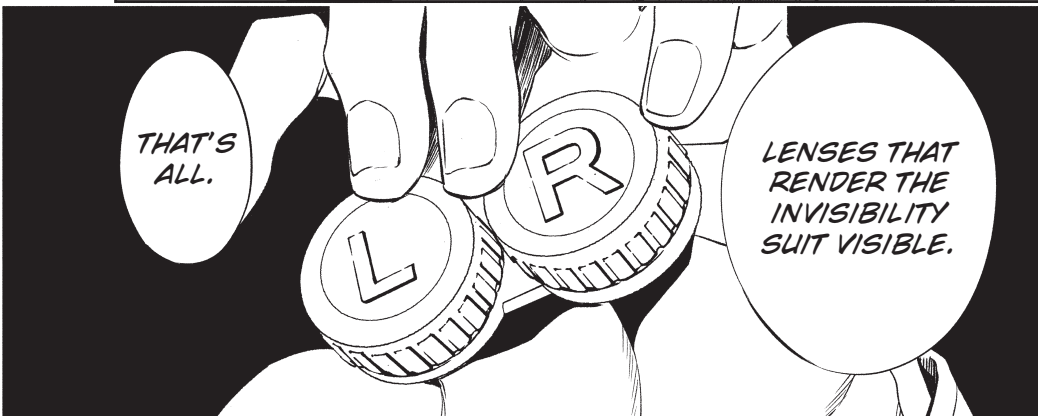

HE MUST HAVE THE SAME POWERS OF VISION I DO!


BUT I CAN'T SEE THROUGH OBJECTS OR SEE INVISIBLE FIGURES.
I DO HAVE 20/10 VISION IN BOTH,
HEH HEH
NO, MY EYES ARE EXCEEDINGLY NORMAL.

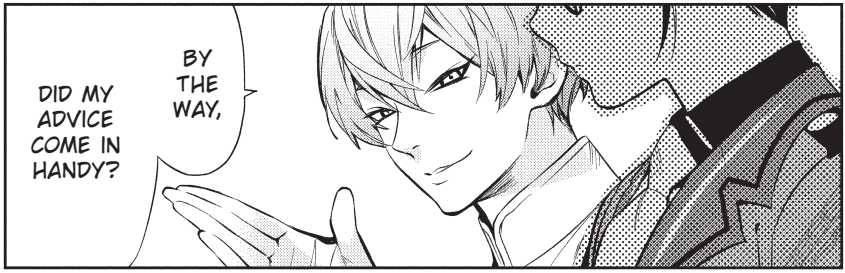
Oh... Duh.
WOOPS

like you
I WOULDN'T NEED AN ASSISTANT. I'D BE ABLE TO SEE THROUGH THE CARDS MYSELF.
IF I HAD THAT SORT OF VISION,

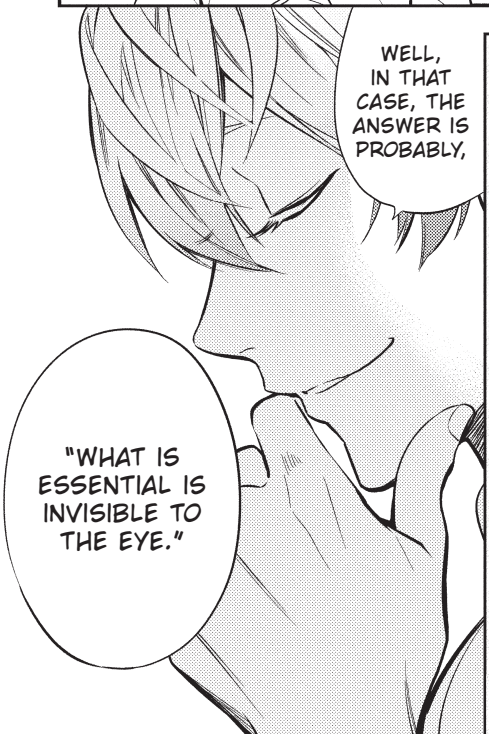
A CUNNING LITTLE SCAM WHICH RELIED ON EQUIPMENT, NOT ABILITY.
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
FOR ME, IT WAS LESS ABOUT SIGHT THAN FORESIGHT—

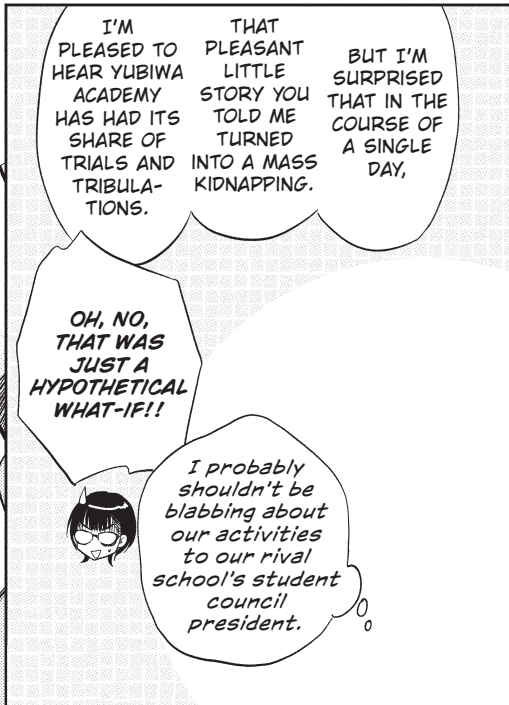

THAT'S ALL.
LENSES THAT RENDER THE INVISIBILITY SUIT VISIBLE.

I'M SORRY TO DISAPPOINT YOU.
they won't do much good.
Makes sense—if the people deploying the invisibility suits can't see them,
So that's how he did it!
!!
he wore those during the Showdown
Well, actually they were, just a little...
IT'S FINE. MY HOPES WEREN'T THAT HIGH ANYWAY.
To find someone who'd seen the same star as me.
To find someone to share this world with, this world only I can see.


BY THE WAY,
DID MY ADVICE COME IN HANDY?

IT SEEMS I DON'T HAVE THE MAKINGS OF A DETECTIVE AFTER ALL.
THAT IS TRULY UNFORTUNATE.
SO THANKS.
I WOULDN'T SAY THAT.
BUT AT LEAST I DIDN'T EMBARRASS MYSELF.


WELL, IN THAT CASE, THE ANSWER IS PROBABLY,
"WHAT IS ESSENTIAL IS INVISIBLE TO THE EYE."


I'M PLEASED TO HEAR YUBIWA ACADEMY HAS HAD ITS SHARE OF TRIALS AND TRIBULATIONS.
THAT PLEASANT LITTLE STORY YOU TOLD ME TURNED INTO A MASS KIDNAPPING.
BUT I'M SURPRISED THAT IN THE COURSE OF A SINGLE DAY,
OH, NO, THAT WAS JUST A HYPOTHETICAL WHAT-IF!!
I probably shouldn't be blabbing about our activities to our rival school's student council president.

SO ARE YOU GOING AROUND RETRIEVING THE MONEY FROM EVERYONE YOU GAVE IT TO?
SNAP
You won't get far complimenting a girl dressed as a boy on her girliness.
WHAT A DARLING ENVELOPE.
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
WHY?
BUT IN YOUR CASE, MS. DOJIMA, I FELT I OUGHT TO RETRIEVE THE BILLS MYSELF.
Is that really the kind of thing to pull together for?
WE'RE ALL PULLING TOGETHER TO CONCEAL THE CRIME.
OUR SCHOOL IS BLESSED WITH A BOUNTY OF AMAZING HUMAN RESOURCES.
SWOOP
WHY DO YOU THINK?
!

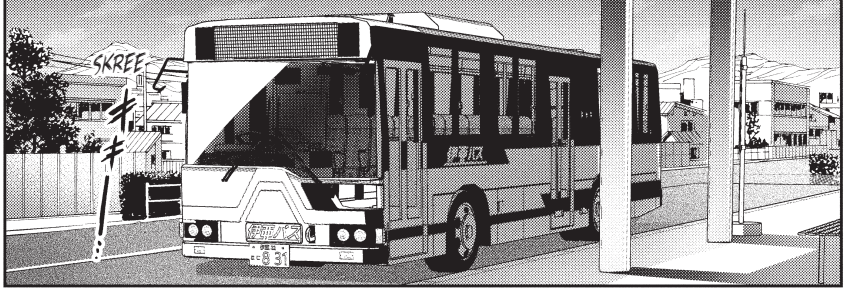
A—
YOU HAD SOME OTHER REASON FOR ARRANGING THIS MEETING.
AS A PRETEXT?
YOUR REAL AGENDA.

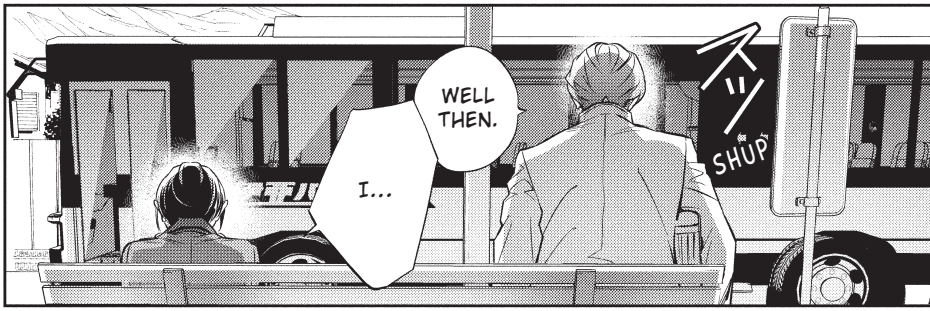
...
WRONG.

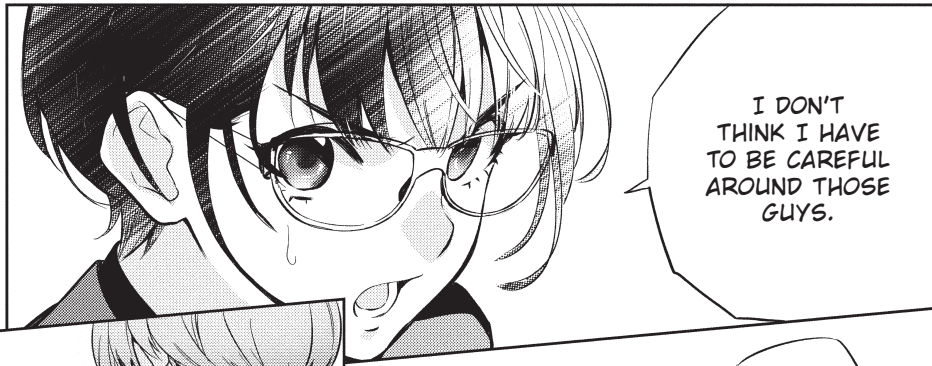
I SIMPLY WANTED TO SEE YOU, MS. DOJIMA.
THERE WAS NO OTHER REASON
I CAME TO MEET YOU.
Wh-What?

NONE AT ALL?
I DID NOT.
HUH? YOU REALLY DIDN'T HAVE ANY OTHER REASON?
NONE AT ALL.
Seriously ?!

he wanted to see me...?
FOR AN INVESTOR LIKE ME,
MEETING WITH PEOPLE LIKE THIS IS ALL PART OF THE JOB.
HONESTLY, YOU PROBABLY SHOULDN'T EVEN HAVE COME HERE TODAY.
...?
IT DIDN'T OCCUR TO YOU?
THAT GIVING YOUR ESCORTS THE SLIP
TO MEET WITH THE TOP DOG OF YOUR RIVAL SCHOOL
MIGHT FEEL TO THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE PRETTY BOY DETECTIVE CLUB LIKE A BETRAYAL?
THOUGH I SUPPOSE IT MIGHT BE EASIER FOR YOU
TO TALK TO AN ENEMY YOU HAVE NO NEED TO BEFRIEND THAN TO FRIENDS YOU NEED TO BE CAREFUL AROUND.
BUT WE'RE NOT THE ONLY ONES AFTER YOUR VISION, YOU KNOW.







Friends I don't have to be careful around.

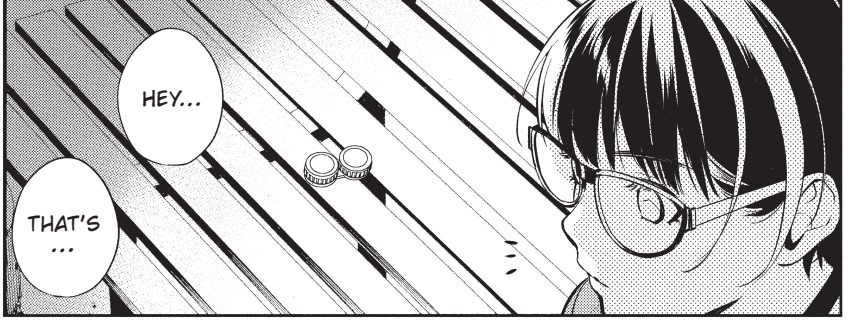
I GO WHERE I WANT, AND I RUN AWAY WHEN I WANT.

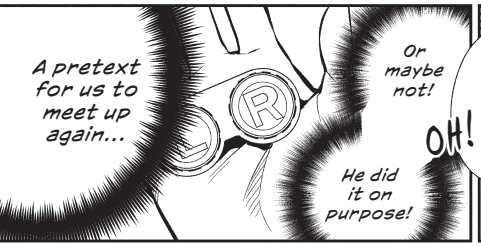
And more than that, friends who aren't careful around me.

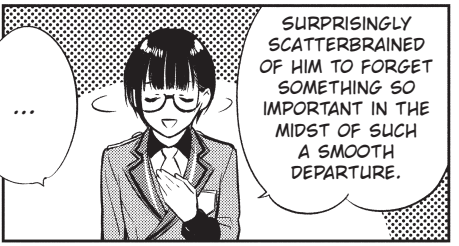
I SAY WHAT I WANT, AND I SEE WHO I WANT—

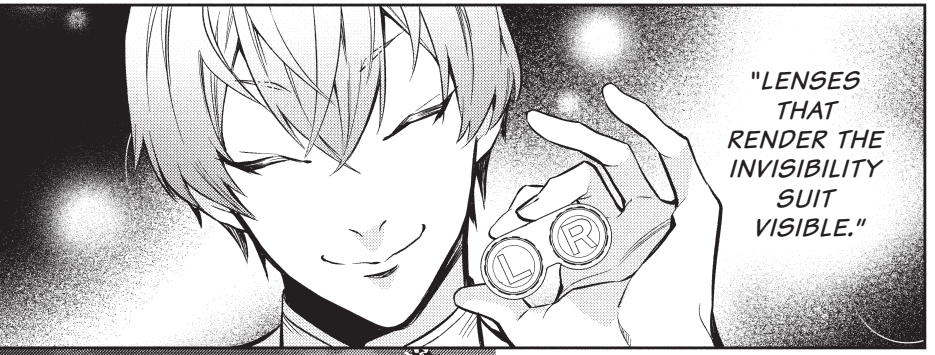
AND THE PRETTY BOY DETECTIVE CLUB COMES PRETTY DAMN CLOSE TO THAT IDEAL.
I CAN BE MYSELF WITH THEM.
That's what I've always dreamed of.

...I STAND CORRECTED.
TAK
TAK
BUT...
PSSHHH
VROOM
IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR FRIENDS YOU DON'T NEED TO BE CAREFUL AROUND,
THEN WE COULD ALSO BE YOUR FRIENDS,
MS. DOJIMA.
Lai Fudatsuki...
What on earth is he up to?


HEY...
THAT'S ...


A pretext for us to meet up again...
Or maybe not!
OH!
He did it on purpose!


...
SURPRISINGLY SCATTERBRAINED OF HIM TO FORGET SOMETHING SO IMPORTANT IN THE MIDST OF SUCH A SMOOTH DEPARTURE.


"LENSES THAT RENDER THE INVISIBILITY SUIT VISIBLE."

...BY THE WAY.
BUS
STOP

TUCK
スッ
...

SORRY TO ASK WHEN YOU'RE HIDING LIKE THAT,
BUT WOULD YOU MIND WALKING ME HOME,
DELIN-QUENT?
SHF
DON'T TELL ME
YOU SAW THROUGH THE BUSHES.
I DIDN'T SEE YOU TAKE OFF YOUR GLASSES.
NOPE.
GIGGLE
I JUST FIGURED YOU'D BE THERE.

WHERE'S MR. BARE-LEGS?
HE WENT TO YOUR HOUSE. IN CASE SOMETHING ACTUALLY HAPPENED.
CALL HIM THEN, WILL YOU?
TELL HIM HIS DEAR FRIEND IS ALL RIGHT.
DEMAND-ING, AREN'T WE!
SO?
WHAT DID YOU AND THE ENEMY BOSS TALK ABOUT?
I COULDN'T HEAR MUCH OVER THE SOUND OF THE BUS THERE AT THE END.
IT'S A SECRET.
Hey, no fair!

AHA!

YOUNG DOJIMA HAS ARRIVED!

LET'S HEAR FROM YOU IMMEDIATELY!

No pressure ...

PLEASE LISTEN QUIETLY

AS I SHARE WITH YOU THE TRUE NATURE OF THE KIDNAPPING THAT OCCURRED SEVEN YEARS AGO.

A THEORY FOUNDED UPON FIRM EVIDENCE AND SOUND LOGIC.

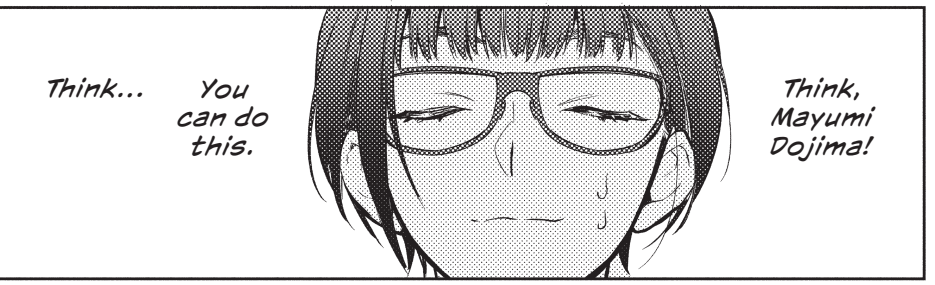
SINCE THE PRESIDENT HAS EXPRESSED HIS PREFERENCE,

SHALL WE BEGIN WITH MS. DOJIMA?

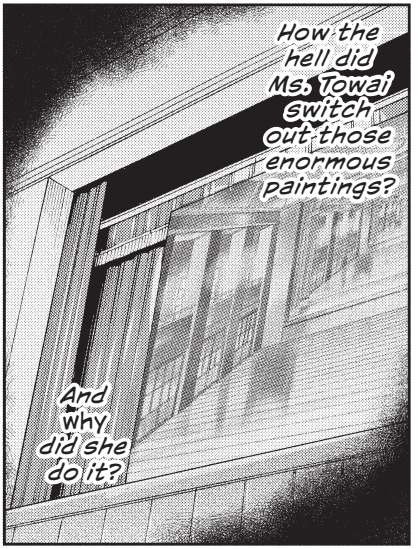
GLOOM

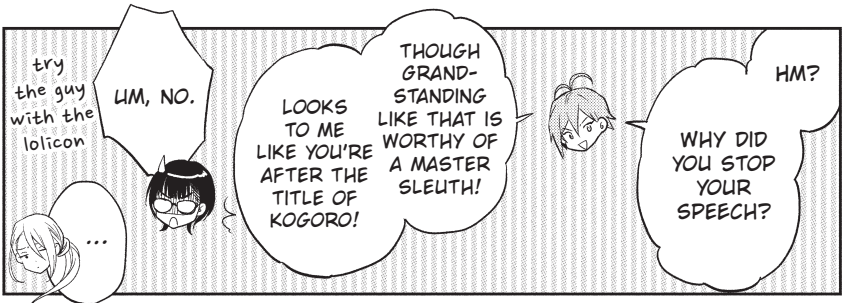
VERY WELL.

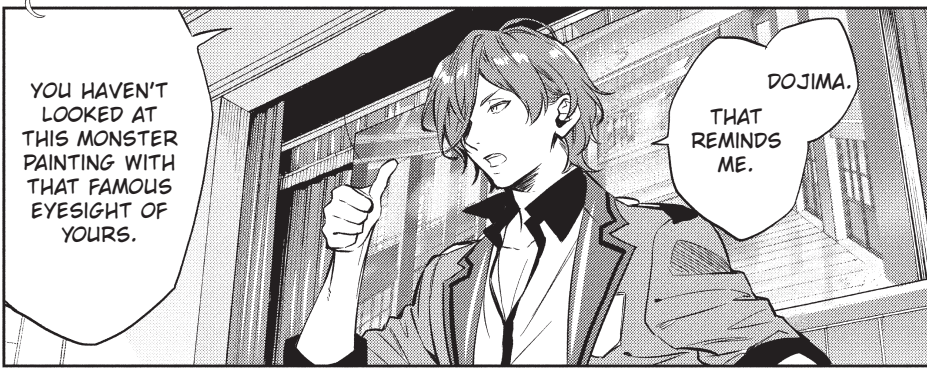
CRAP!! I DIDN'T HAVE TIME TO DO MY HOME-WORK!!
...
BAM
ばっ


Think...
You can do this.
Think, Mayumi Dojima!

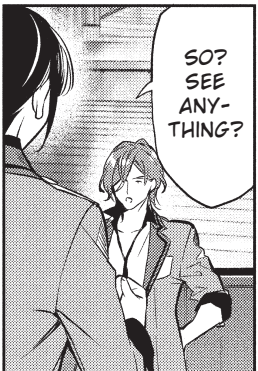
I DON'T HAVE A CLUE...
SIGH...


How the hell did Ms. Towai switch out those enormous paintings?
And why did she do it?


try the guy with the lolicon
UM, NO.
...
LOOKS TO ME LIKE YOU'RE AFTER THE TITLE OF KOGORO!
THOUGH GRAND-STANDING LIKE THAT IS WORTHY OF A MASTER SLEUTH!
HM?
WHY DID YOU STOP YOUR SPEECH?


YOU HAVEN'T LOOKED AT THIS MONSTER PAINTING WITH THAT FAMOUS EYESIGHT OF YOURS.
DOJIMA.
THAT REMINDS ME.

SLIDE


SO? SEE ANY-THING?

STARE

NICE ONE, DELIN-QUENT!!
sometimes you do come in handy!!

the wall behind the painting...

...Not a thing...

Just ...

No hidden message after all...

HURRY UP AND TELL US, YOUNG DOJIMA!

ズーン... WILT

WHAT SORT OF THEORY DID YOU AND FUDATSUKI COME UP WITH?

Even Sotoin knows about our meeting?

ガーン!! SHOCK

I need a theory worthy of his expectations—worthy of a member of the Pretty Boy Detective Club.
Be pretty.
Be a boy.
Be a detective.
And...
ゴソ
RUSTLE

Be a team.
?
UM... DOES ANYONE...
KNOW HOW TO PUT IN CONTACT LENSES?
L
R

Fudatsuki gave me no insight whatsoever
into the "mass kidnapping" of seven years ago.
I figured that since he'd accomplished his professional goal of meeting with me,
he wasn't about to give me any more freebies.
But what if he did?
Obliquely.
Or, blatantly...

TH...
In the form of these "for-gotten" contacts.
THIS...
Finally, I can see right through ...

DO YOU SEE ANY-THING?
THIS...
PAINTING WASN'T SWITCHED OUT AT ALL...
to the truth!

PRETTY BOY

DETECTIVE CLUB!!

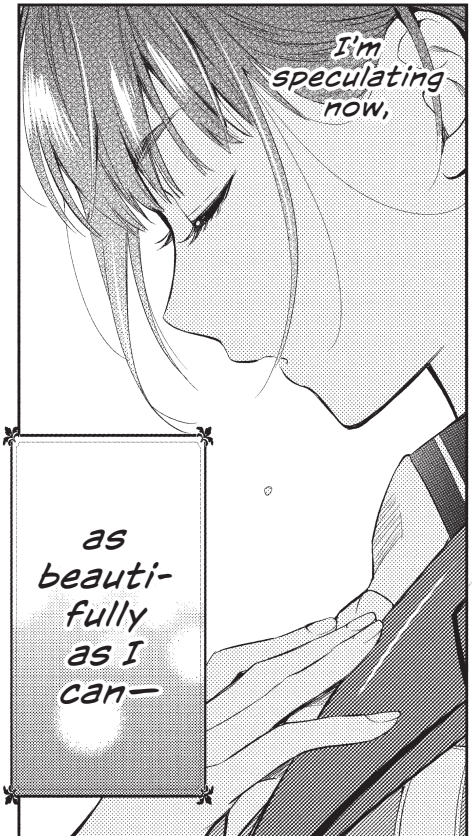
THE PAINTING WASN'T SWITCHED OUT?!
WHADDA YA MEAN, DOJI-MA?!
THIS...
HAS BEEN PAINTED OVER!

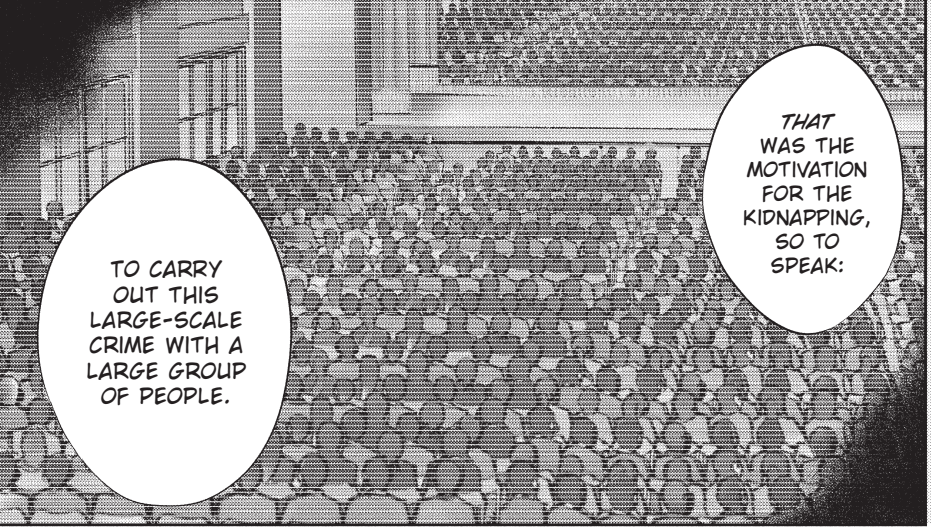
FILE ★ The Pretty Boy in the Attic 6

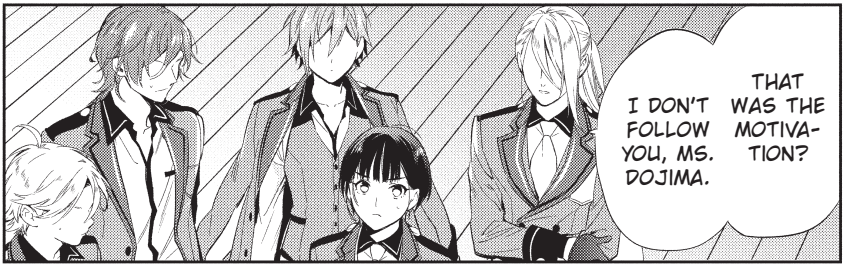
HMM ...
THAT DOES SOLVE THE PROBLEM OF HOW SHE GOT IT IN AND OUT OF THIS "LOCKED ROOM,"
HOW SHE PAINTED THE NEW PICTURE AND DISPOSED OF THE OLD ONE.
BUT MS. DOJIMA ...
LOOK HOW BIG IT IS.
PAINTING OVER SOME-THING THIS SIZE WOULD BE NO MEAN FEAT!
IT WOULD TAKE A SIGNIFICANT AMOUNT OF TIME.
TRUE, AND THE ORIGINAL PAINTING TOOK A WHOLE MONTH TO COMPLETE.
SHE COULD NEVER HAVE WORKED IN HERE FOR THAT LONG WITHOUT BEING DISCOVERED.
BUT SHE DIDN'T HAVE TO REPAINT THE WHOLE THING.
THE COMPO-SITION IS THE SAME,
SO SHE JUST HAD TO PAINT OVER THE ROWS OF STUDENTS,
WHICH IS A LOT LESS WORK.
THEN...
LESS, BUT STILL TOO MUCH
FOR ONE PERSON TO TAKE ON ALONE...

WH-
WHAT?
BAM

WHAT IF SHE WASN'T ALONE?


I'm speculating now,
as beauti-fully as I can—


TO CARRY OUT THIS LARGE-SCALE CRIME WITH A LARGE GROUP OF PEOPLE.
THAT WAS THE MOTIVATION FOR THE KIDNAPPING, SO TO SPEAK:

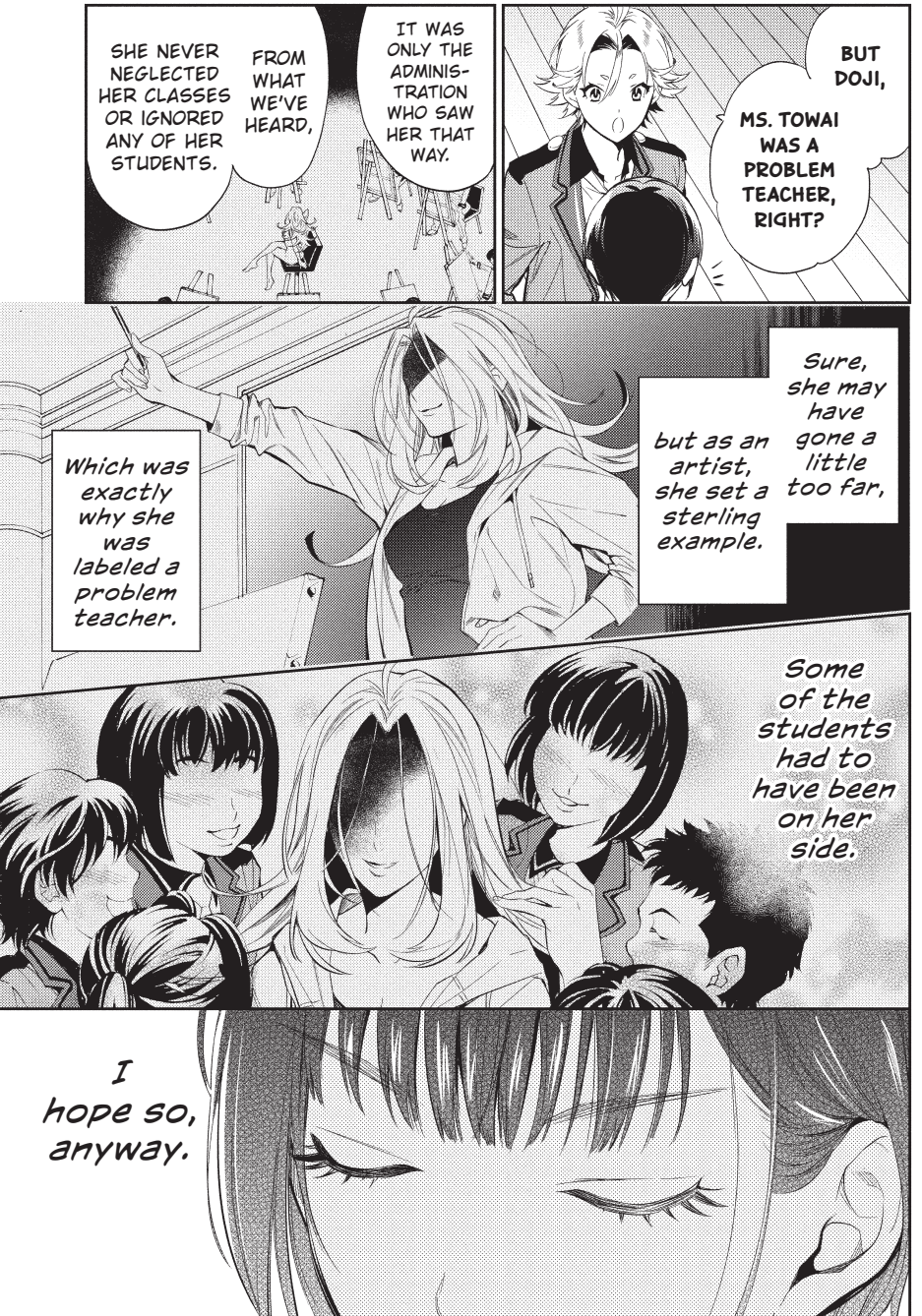

I DON'T FOLLOW YOU, MS. DOJIMA.
THAT WAS THE MOTIVA-TION?

MS. TOWAI'S FELLOW ARTISTS?

WHAT LARGE GROUP?

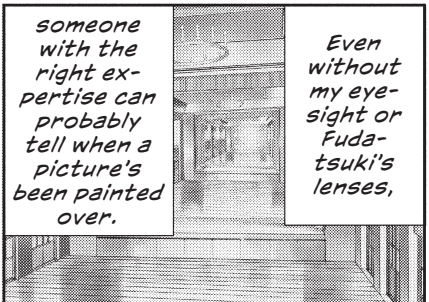
NO...
I'M TALKING ABOUT...

She, Kowako Towai,
recruited her own art students to help her.
The students who lamented the loss of art class as much as she did.
HER STUDENTS FROM YUBIWA ACADEMY.


BUT DOJI,
MS. TOWAI WAS A PROBLEM TEACHER, RIGHT?
IT WAS ONLY THE ADMINISTRATION WHO SAW HER THAT WAY.
FROM WHAT WE'VE HEARD,
SHE NEVER NEGLECTED HER CLASSES OR IGNORED ANY OF HER STUDENTS.
Sure, she may have gone a little too far,
but as an artist, she set a sterling example.
Which was exactly why she was labeled a problem teacher.
Some of the students had to have been on her side.
I hope so, anyway.

In the end,

the mass kidnapping was Ms. Towai's final class.



I THINK THE REASON MS. TOWAI DISAPPEARED SEVEN YEARS AGO
WAS THAT SHE WANTED TO TAKE SOLE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE CRIME.
SHE WANTED TO MAKE SURE THOSE STUDENTS WOULDN'T BE PUNISHED.
BEAUTIFUL.
ANYWAY, I'M NOT SURE
SCRITCH
SCRITCH
HOW MUCH OF THIS IS TRUE, BUT...
TUP
ALL OF IT.

WHSK
!!
IT'S A CRYING SHAME I NEVER GOT TO PAINT THEIR CRYING FACES.
TAP
OF COURSE, PART OF IT WAS PLAIN OLD DISGUST WITH THE SCHOOL.
TAP

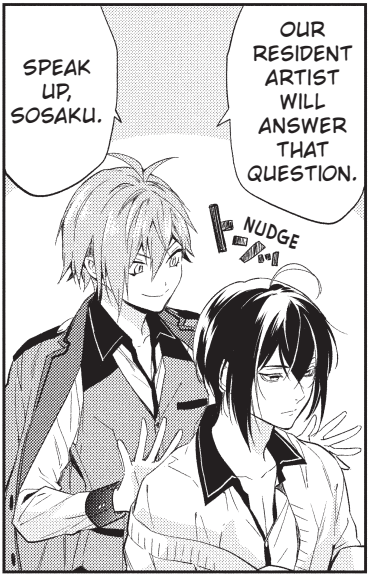
...MS. TOWAI, I PRESUME?
INDEED.
ARTIST, FORMER TEACHER,
I'M KOWAKO TOWAI.
AND KIDNAPPER OF THE HOUR.
...

BUT WHO COMES BACK AFTER SEVEN WHOLE YEARS?
THEY SAY CRIMINALS ALWAYS RETURN TO THE SCENE OF THE CRIME.
Huh?
Even Sakiguchi is caught off guard...
BUT I HEARD SOME KIDS HAD COMMANDEERED MY OLD ART ROOM.
WOULD THAT BE...
THE TRUTH IS, I DIDN'T WANT TO COME BACK AT ALL—
YOU GUYS?
YES.
THAT'S US.
GRIN

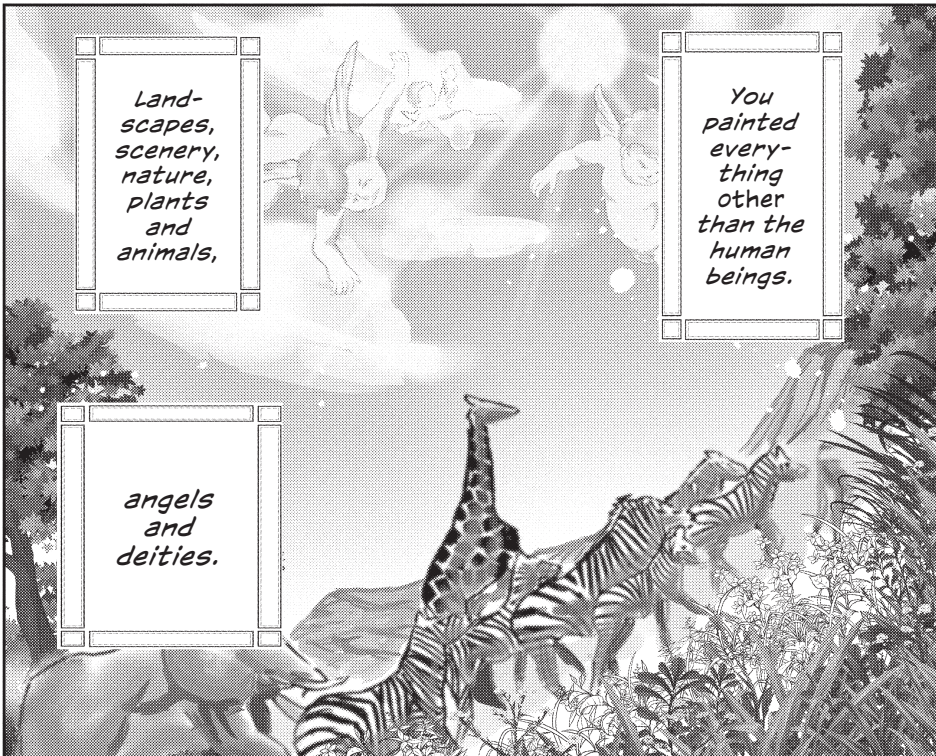
THE PRETTY BOY DETECTIVE CLUB.

DID YOU SOLVE THE OTHER MYSTERY?
CICCLE
FUNNY NAME.
TUP
SO,
SO WHAT DO YOU THINK MY MOTIVATION WAS?
THOSE I DID ALL BY MYSELF.
THE OTHER MYSTERY ...?
I'D COMPLETELY FORGOTTEN!
I HAVE NO IDEA!
Oh, right, the paintings in the crawl space.

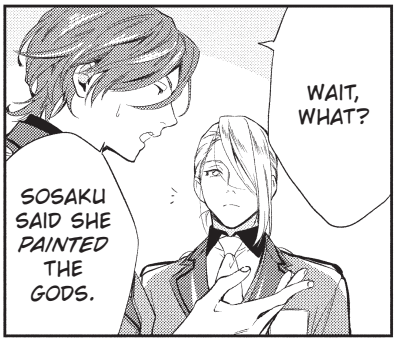
YOU PAINTED THE GODS.

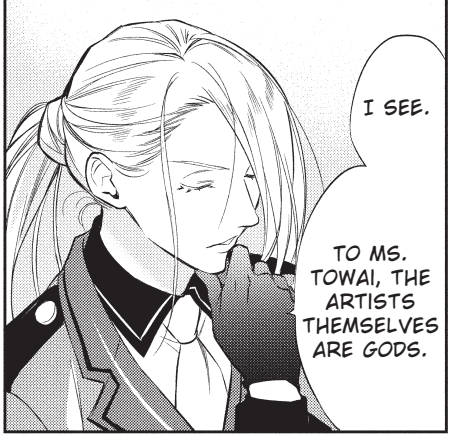


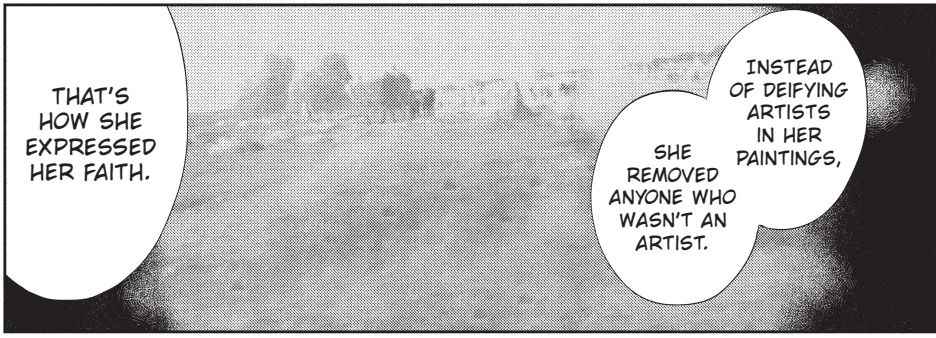
THE GODS ...?!
IT'S NOT THAT YOU DIDN'T PAINT THE PEOPLE.
...


You painted everything other than the human beings.
Landscapes, scenery, nature, plants and animals,
angels and deities.

"NOT AT ALL."
SO YOU'RE SAYING,
SHE DID IT BECAUSE SHE HATED PAINTING PEOPLE?
A THEME?
THAT THOSE 33 PAINTINGS SHARE A THEME.
SOSAKU IS SAYING
FAITH.


WAIT, WHAT?
SOSAKU SAID SHE *PAINTED* THE GODS.

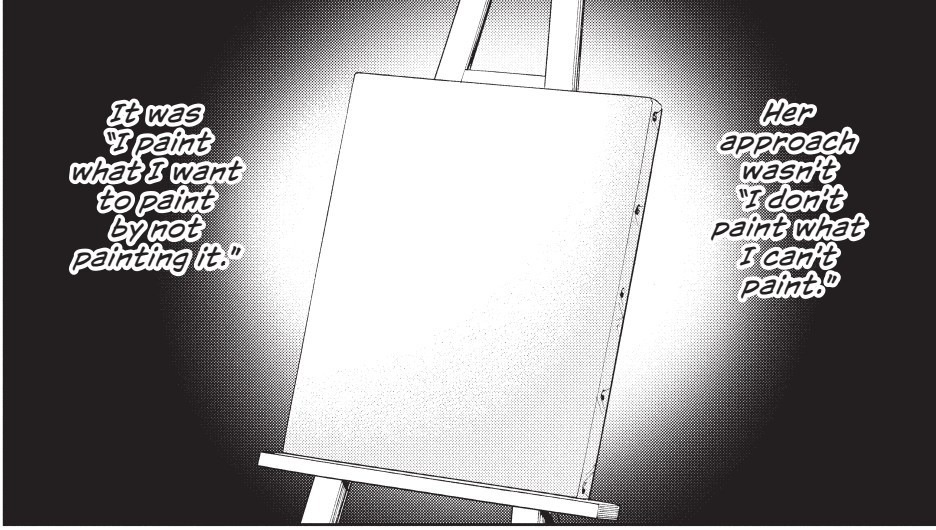

I SEE.
TO MS. TOWAI, THE ARTISTS THEMSELVES ARE GODS.


INSTEAD OF DEIFYING ARTISTS IN HER PAINTINGS,
SHE REMOVED ANYONE WHO WASN'T AN ARTIST.
THAT'S HOW SHE EXPRESSED HER FAITH.

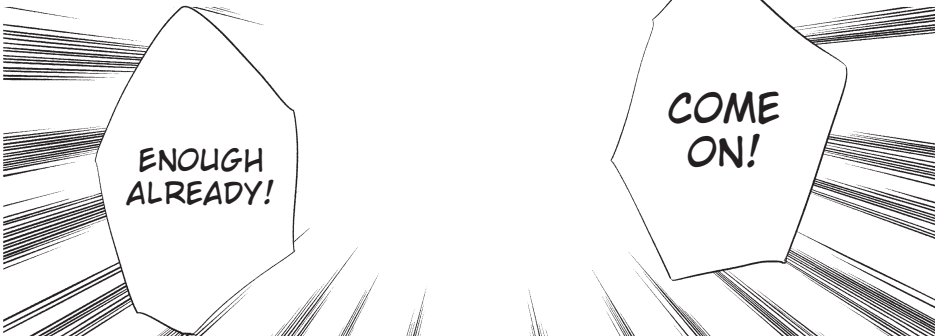
SO MAYBE ...
THE LINK BETWEEN THE *MONA LISA* AND *THE SCREAM*
IS THAT...

SO SHE ONLY CHOSE PAINTINGS WITH PEOPLE,
RIGHT, SOSAKU?
THEN ASKED THOSE PEOPLE TO WITHDRAW FROM THE LOCKED ROOMS OF THE CANVASES ...

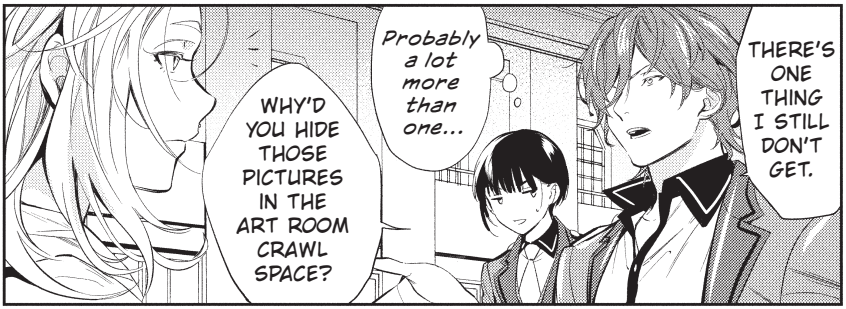
There's a popular belief that Leonardo's Mona Lisa is actually a self-portrait.
And The Scream depicts the artist's own terror at the scream of nature.
THEY'RE BOTH SELF-PORTRAITS?
SO HER THEME WOULD HAVE LOST ITS MEANING.
REMOVING THE HUMAN FIGURES FROM THOSE PAINTINGS
WOULD HAVE BEEN THE SAME AS ERASING THE GODS.

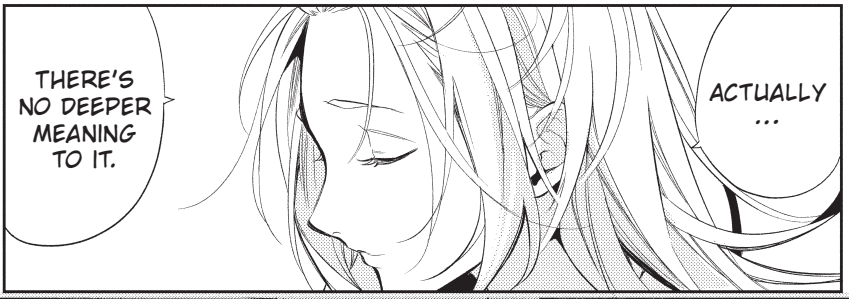

It was "I paint what I want to paint by not painting it."
Her approach wasn't "I don't paint what I can't paint."

they exist only on the canvas of her heart.
The images of those figures Ms. Towai worshipped aren't in any crawl space—


ENOUGH ALREADY!
COME ON!

...
YOU, WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
UGH.
I NEVER IMAGINED YOU'D GUESS THE TRUTH.
I FIGURED I'D JUST GET A GOOD LAUGH OUT OF YOUR CRAZY THEORIES.
SOSAKU YUBIWA.
WE CALL HIM SOSAKU THE ARTISTE, CREATOR OF BEAUTY.
HE'S HEIR TO THE YUBIWA FOUNDATION, THE ORGANIZATION THAT DROVE YOU OUT OF THIS SCHOOL.
HA HAA
IF A GUY LIKE YOU HAD BEEN AROUND SEVEN YEARS AGO,
MAYBE I WOULDN'T HAVE GOTTEN THE AXE.





I THOUGHT IF I HID THEM UP THERE, SOMEWHERE DOWN THE LINE

SOME WEIRD KIDS MIGHT FIND MY PAINTINGS.

AND I WANTED THEM TO THINK, "WHAT THE HELL ARE THESE?"

YOU THE ONE WHO FOUND 'EM, YUBIWA?
IT WAS YOUNG DOJIMA HERE WHO DISCOVERED THEM, ACTUALLY.
MAYUMI THE SEER, SHE OF THE BEAUTIFUL EYES.
YEAH?
SHE'S THE ONE WHO SOLVED THE MYSTERY OF *THE AUDITORIUM IN THE AUDITORIUM*, TOO, RIGHT?
MUST BE SOME KIND OF CHILD GENIUS.
Um, no. That's Sosaku.

THIS IS HYOTA THE ADONIS, HE OF THE BEAUTIFUL LEGS, AKA HYOTA ASHIKAGA.
THIS IS MICHIRU THE EPICURE, HE OF THE BEAUTIFUL PALATE, AKA MICHIRU FUKUROI.

I SEE...
AND THIS IS NAGAHIRO THE ORATOR, HE OF THE BEAUTIFUL VOICE, AKA NAGAHIRO SAKIGUCHI.
AND?
WHO ARE YOU?
POING

I THINK IT'S A WONDERFUL THING
I'M MANABU SOTOIN. MANABU THE AESTHETE, LOVER OF BEAUTY.
PRESIDENT OF THE PRETTY BOY DETECTIVE CLUB.

AND I'M DELIGHTED TO HAVE MET YOU TODAY.
THAT A TEACHER LIKE YOU WAS HERE SEVEN YEARS AGO.
MS. TOWAI, WOULD YOU BE WILLING TO PASS ON YOUR ART ROOM TO US?

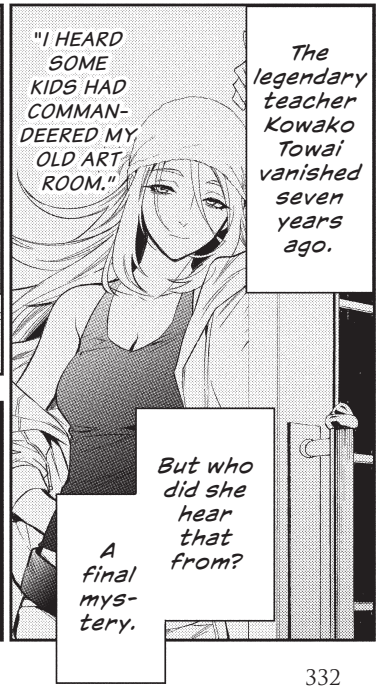
THE NEXT DAY

DING DONG DING DONG DING

TAP TAP TAP

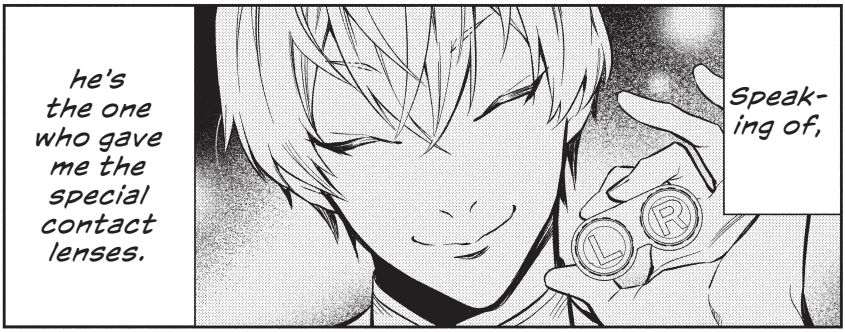
I should probably end this tale right here,

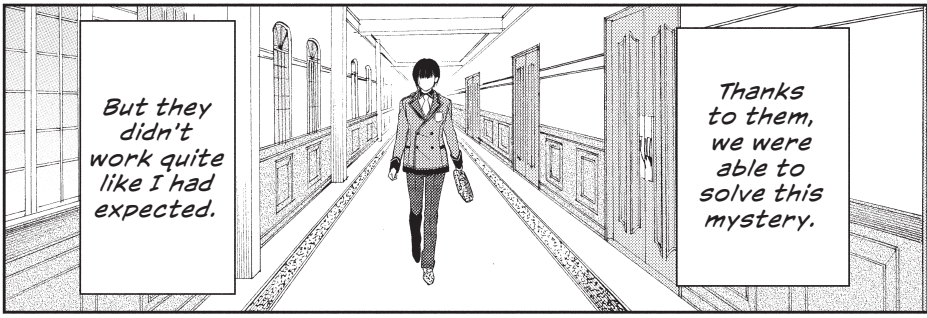
but I'm sorry to say there are still one or two more lilies I need to gild.

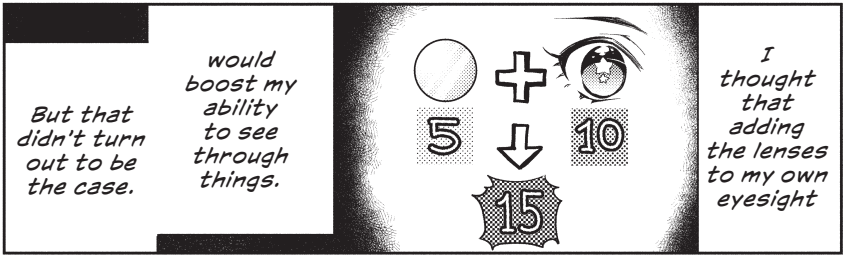


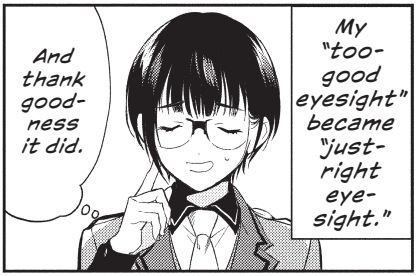
So who tattled on us?

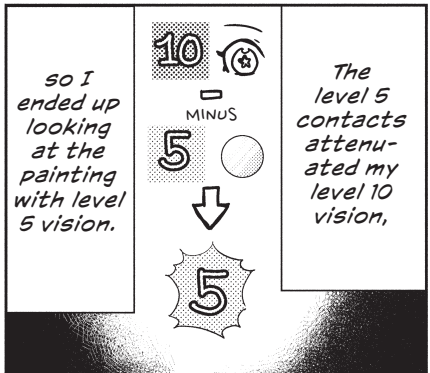
I don't know, but I do know one person who was aware
SLAM
that we were searching for an artist and former teacher
by the name of Kowako Towai—
because I told him so at the bus stop.
Drawing on his personal network to find a missing person
and transport her to a certain middle school would've been a piece of cake.


he's the one who gave me the special contact lenses.
Speaking of,
L
R


But they didn't work quite like I had expected.
Thanks to them, we were able to solve this mystery.


But that didn't turn out to be the case.
would boost my ability to see through things.
5
10
15
I thought that adding the lenses to my own eyesight


And thank goodness it did.
My "too-good eyesight" became "just-right eyesight."


so I ended up looking at the painting with level 5 vision.
10
MINUS
5
5
The level 5 contacts attenuated my level 10 vision,

I hear Ms. Towai is living a self-sufficient life devoted to art

on an otherwise uninhabited isle, which the neighbors apparently refer to as

a modern-day Panorama Island.

She invited us to visit her there anytime.

Like that's ever gonna happen.

BEEPIPIPI

And.

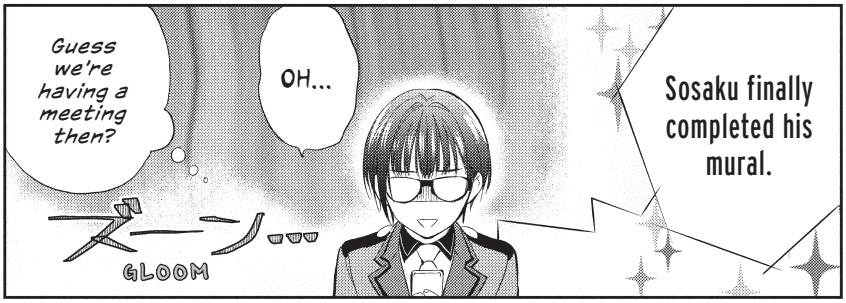
BEEPIPIPI

One more bonus.

Hello, Ms. Dojima?

SAKI-GUCHI ...

I've got a bad feeling ...



HEY,

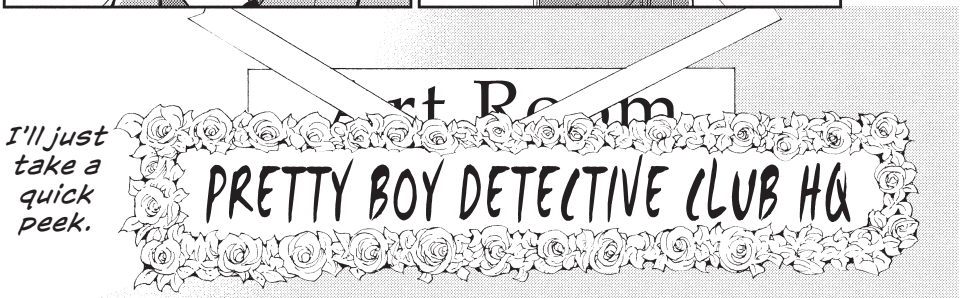
CHIL—I MEAN, YUBIWA.

will he ever finish this huge mural?

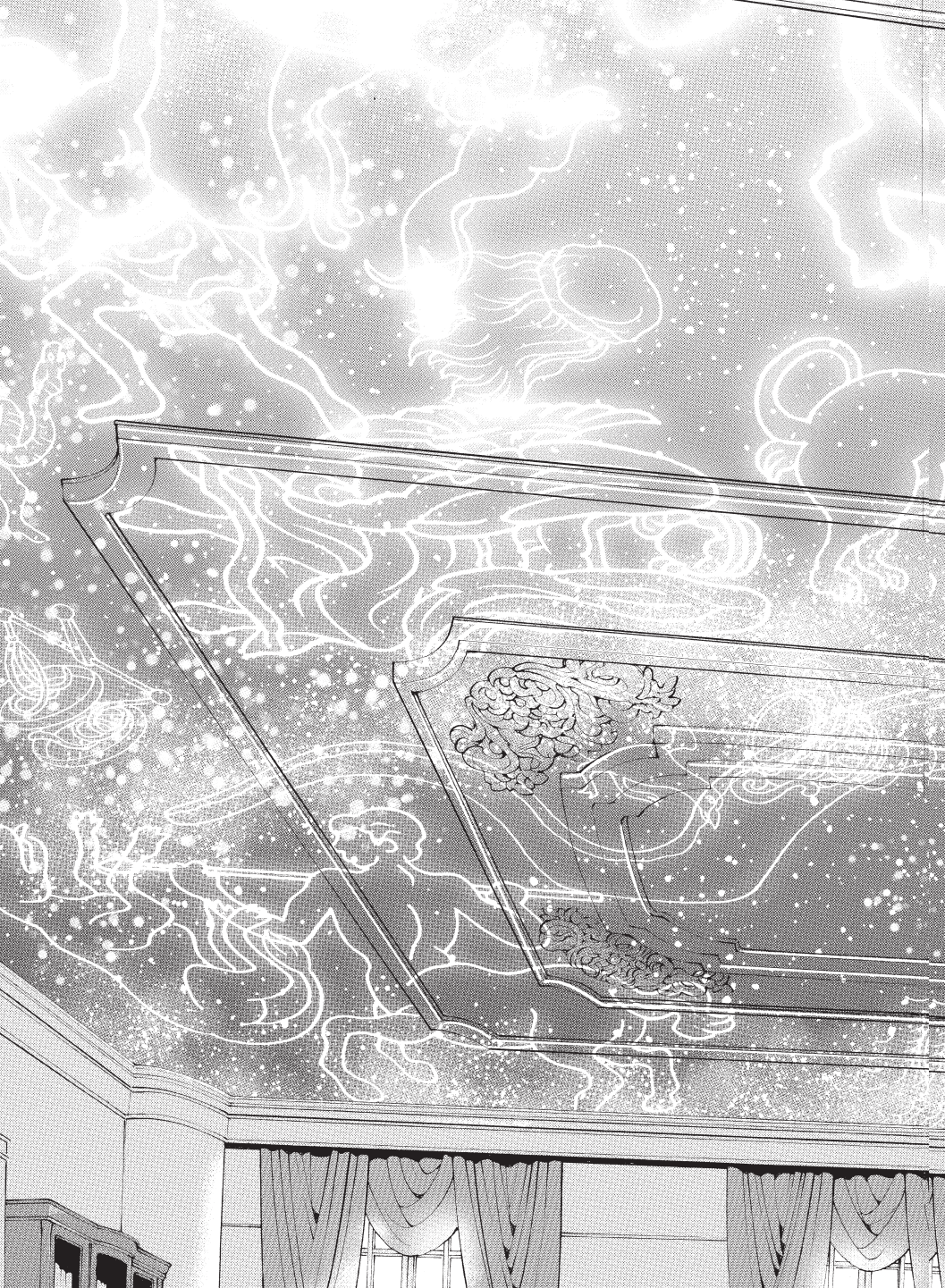
WHAT MADE YOU WANT TO PAINT THE CEILING?

...

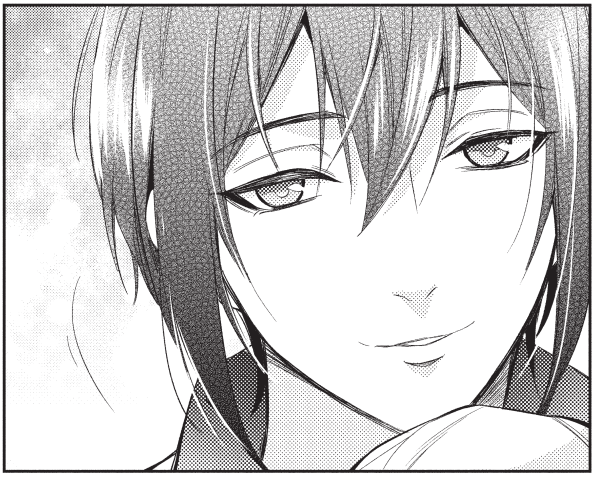
CRAP.
Thanks, Mr. Lolicon, now I just wanna go home.
But I'm already here, so...
CLICK
WHAT IS HE PAINTING, ANYWAY?
it's so huge I can't even tell what it is...
UM...
ERG
Dear, dear, is this really the same Ms. Dojima who solved our little mystery?
snicker

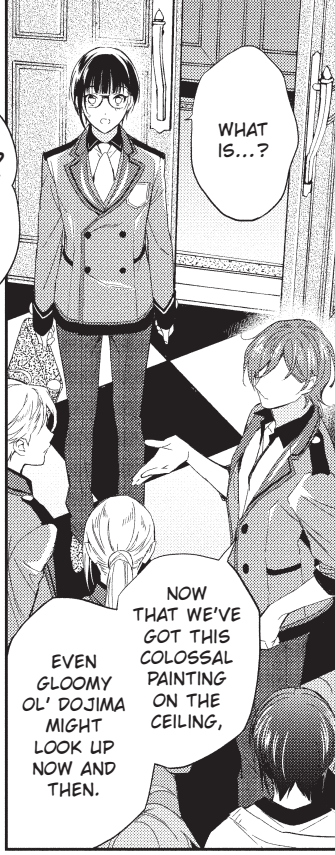

I'll just take a quick peek.
PRETTY BOY DETECTIVE CLUB HQ

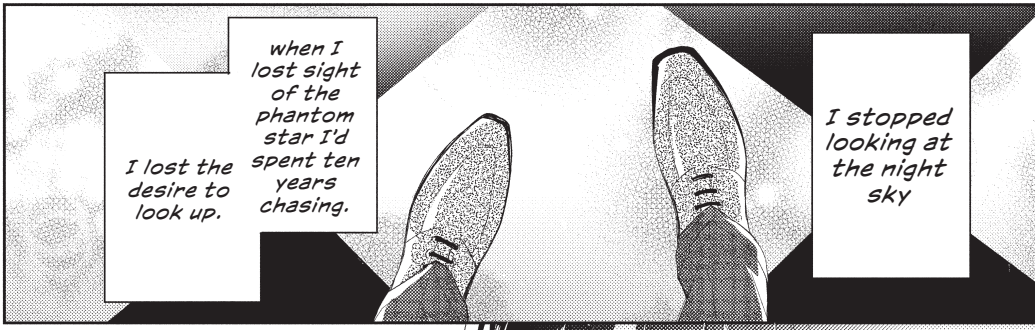
CREEEEAK
イイイ…

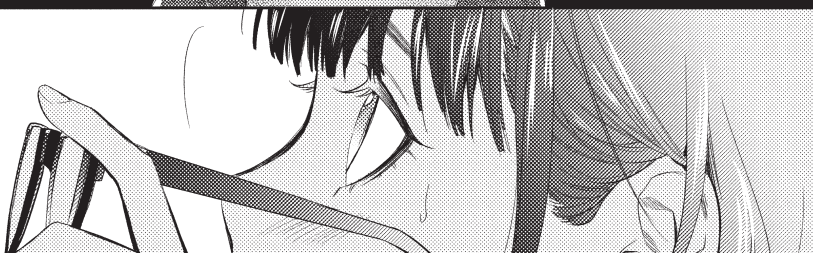


I'M DELIGHTED TO SEE IT PLEASES YOU, YOUNG DOJIMA!
A FITTING REWARD FOR SOSAKU, SINCE HE PAINTED IT FOR YOU!




WHAT IS...?
NOW THAT WE'VE GOT THIS COLOSSAL PAINTING ON THE CEILING,
EVEN GLOOMY OL' DOJIMA MIGHT LOOK UP NOW AND THEN.


I stopped looking at the night sky
when I lost sight of the phantom star I'd spent ten years chasing.
I lost the desire to look up.


That's why...

the Pretty Boy Detective Club.
That's why I joined
SO I COULD LOOK UP AT THE SKY AGAIN ONE DAY.

YOUNG DOJIMA.

UNTIL THE DAY YOU ONCE AGAIN LOOK UP AT THE REAL NIGHT SKY,

I INVITE YOU TO ENJOY THESE BEAUTIFUL STARS TO YOUR HEART'S CONTENT!

ALL RIGHT, LADS, TIME FOR A PARTY!
LET US MAKE MERRY IN HONOR OF COMPLETING THIS GREAT WORK OF ART!
We talk about things being beautiful beyond depiction.

And yet I wish someone would paint a picture of this moment,
all of us looking up at the same vista.
Because for the first time, I feel like I've truly become one of them.

2017. 7
Staff
Kajita-san Yamaguchifu-san
Thanks
Nishio-sensei Kinako-sensei
and you♡

2018. 05
• STAFF •
Kajita-san
Yamaguchifu-san
• THANKS •
Nishio-sensei
Kinako-sensei
and you!

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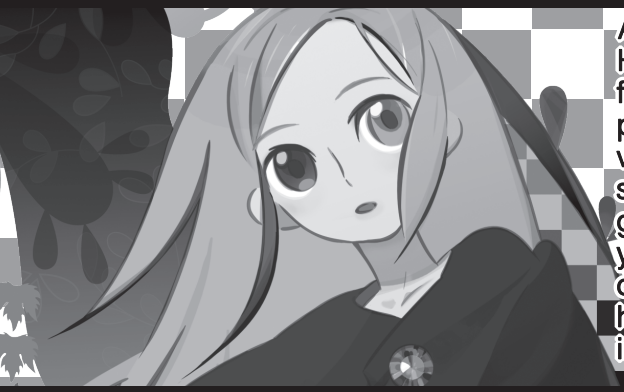

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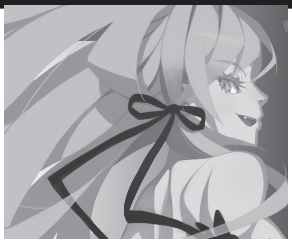

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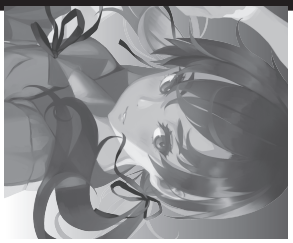

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